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Practicing Ice Safety This Winter

Bark Leadership Centre to Hosts One-Day Workshop

For those who often find themselves on the ice, safety should be considered first.

That's why the Bark Lake Leadership in Irondale hosted a one-day workshop entitled "Safe Working On Ice" on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

During the workshop, participants learned how to identify safe ice travelling conditions, perform one-person and tandem rescues and more. Some brave participants even took a dip in the frigid waters to practice the self rescue techniques they learned.

The workshop was conducted by Wilderness Safety Systems, a group that provides a variety of emergency training techniques and International Certifications. ■



Algonquin Highlands Budget Considered a Good News Story

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

Algonquin Highlands has accepted the County's challenge to strive for marginal increases in the municipal budget. Last week the Council reviewed their 2009 draft budget in considerable detail and after two days of deliberations, had reduced their tax rate by 10.08 percent from the 2008 rates. The draft net budget represents \$6,561,869 in expenses, \$3,762,273 in revenues, which leaves \$2,799,596 to be raised this year through taxation. This net, or bottom line figure, is exactly the same as the 2009 budget, meaning no increases overall which, according to Reeve Eleanor Harrison, is a good news story indeed.

CAO Lorne Mitchell told Council that his department heads and staff had embraced and understood the need for a tough economic budget. Because of this, Mitchell said they were able to recommend almost \$340,000 in reductions from the first draft that each department head had prepared. In addition to tough choices, they also recommended the sale of two existing airport properties on Green Lake Road increasing revenues by a minimum of \$100,000.

Even before Council's detailed review, Harrison said, "The CAO and senior staff looked carefully at the tough times ahead, balanced against increased assessments and are to be commended for a magnificent job."

Adopting the annual budget is a difficult process with much to be considered, and Council's detailed review brought a number of issues to the forefront that needed consideration before moving forward. Other funding sources, Committees of Council and interest groups must be taken into account when deciding what will be deferred for another year. Some of the final changes to the budget were minor but others

were quite significant.

Some of the more difficult choices included reductions to reserves in septage development and waste management. A spacial review and funds to expand the municipal office were removed from the budget, along with reductions to administration mileage, training and education. A \$20,000 capital expenditure at the Dorset Heritage Museum was also deferred.

Substantial cuts were made to fire training & education, fire equipment repairs, fire building and

Budget Cont'd... pg. 6

John Tory Meets and Greets in Minden

Now that the smoke has somewhat cleared since former Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock MPP Laurie Scott vacated her seat to make way for PC Leader John Tory in early January, it seems it's time to get down to business.

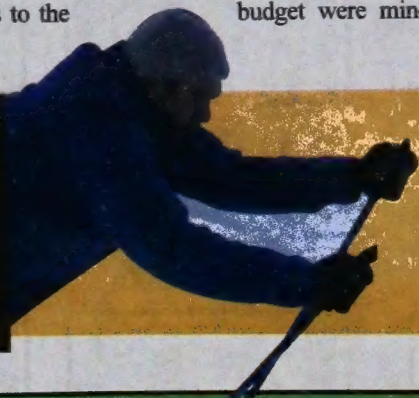
Tory and Scott made a stop at the Minden Legion on Tuesday for a meet and greet with members of the public. The visit was one

of many Tory made to the northern part of the riding on the same day that the Federal budget was brought down.

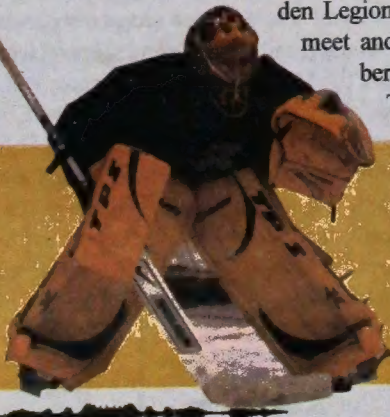
Tory said that it was nice to have a chance to sit down and chat with local residents about the issues that concern them.

John Tory
Cont'd... pg. 5

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This
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of County Voice.

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Who We Are A Year Later...

Stephen Patrick

Editor

Congratulations to the Voice on a great year



195 Highland Street, Haliburton
In The Village Barn
457-2223

Congratulations

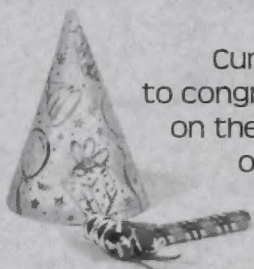


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Well, who'd a thunk it?

The County Voice is, perhaps amazingly, still here serving all of Haliburton County, one year, 52 issues after we first burst onto the scene on January 31st, 2008. Despite a cold and wet summer, despite the apocalyptic warnings of a serious recession, despite the assumed wisdom that people no longer want newspapers, despite an entrenched competition with decades upon decades (as they constantly tell us) of experience, The Voice is charging into Year Two with our heads held high, and our commitment to community journalism and service stronger than ever.

Not that the past year has been easy – this hearty band of writers, photographers, and editors has learned, again, just how difficult it is to start up a brand new business, particularly one as complex and demanding as a weekly newspaper, and most of us have the scars to prove it. But our writers, Mark Arike, Terrance Gavan, Liz Danielson, George Farrell, and Tyson Farrell (who makes an appropriate return to our pages in this issue) and our photographer Lyn Winans (shortly to return from a well-deserved holiday in the hot and humid fleshpots of the American South) have hung in from the beginning with a dedication to their craft and their community that would be the envy of any publication, anywhere. Our owners, Brett and Joanne Irvine, have consistently steered the ship far far away from those dangerous red seas, thus ensuring that Haliburton County will continue to have The County Voice for the foreseeable future. Our production, advertising, and office staff of Buffy Wilson, Shawn Welsh, Carrie Feir and Charlene English are also looking forward to an exciting new year.

And with this second year comes some major changes. As of the March 5th issue The County Voice will be distributed only through newsstand sales and annual subscriptions. This is

Some Changes This Year Including Distribution Method

partially a result of seven printing cost increases over the past year, and a radical change in the cost of mailing The Voice throughout the County.

None of these increases have been passed onto our advertisers or our readers. We will continue to distribute our sister publication, The Highlands Communicator, free through Canada Post, as well as on newsstands for no charge.

We've provided The Voice free for the past year as a means of making sure that all county residents had a chance to see and judge our product: our readers' response, along with the continuous and loyal support of our advertisers, have convinced our owners that this new distribution model is the right one.

The staff of The Voice is also grateful to the Irvines for their commitment to this endeavour and to providing so much new, and strictly local, employment. It's important to note that the revenues garnered by The Voice and The Communicator remain entirely within Haliburton County (with the exception of our printing costs.) And of course, I offer sincere thanks to you, our readers. Without your support, encouragement, high expectations, cooperation, participation and watchful eyes, I would not be writing this anniversary article. Please accept my personal gratitude, knowing how much I, and my colleagues, appreciate you.

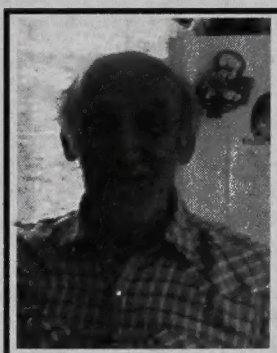
As of the March 5th issue, The Voice will be available on newsstands throughout the County for \$1.25, (GST included). Subscription will be \$49 per year, also with GST included. But for the next five weeks we'll be offering annual subscriptions for just \$39 per year. For further information please see our ad in this issue on Page 12. And as always, all of us here at The Voice welcome your views and reviews of this important change in our distribution model.■

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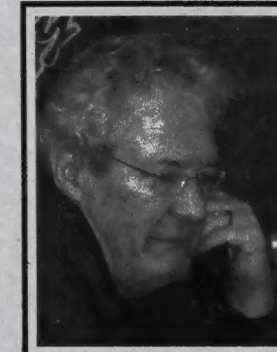
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Sports Editor



Liz Danielson
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Reporter



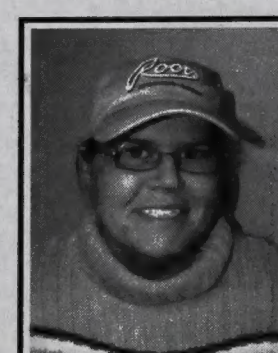
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Photographer



Carrie Feir
Sales Rep.



Shawn Welsh
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Buffy Wilson
Graphic Design



George Farrell
Freelance Writer



Charlene English
Office Admin

Lotto numbers are all unofficial. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

THURSDAY



Cloudy with a chance of snow showers

▲ -9° ▼ -17°

FRIDAY



Cloudy with a chance of snow showers

▲ -11° ▼ -19°

SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy with a few flurries

▲ -9° ▼ -13°

SUNDAY



Mostly cloudy with a few flurries

▲ -4° ▼ -11°

MONDAY



Mostly cloudy with a few flurries

▲ -4° ▼ -10°

TUESDAY



Chance of light snow

▲ -7° ▼ -15°

WEDNESDAY



Sunny to partly cloudy skies

▲ -10° ▼ -19°

AROUND THE REGION: The chilly weather will continue on Thursday with scattered snow showers likely. Highs will be near 10 below zero. Snow showers will continue on Friday. Highs will be near 10 below zero. Flurries will be likely this weekend as high will be in the single digits below zero.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers



Jan 24, 2009

09 13 20 29 45 46

Bonus Number 05

Encore 5084811



Jan 23, 2009

03 04 17 22 28 34 37

Bonus Number 21

Encore 6084274

TROPICAL CITIES

City	Today HI/Lo/Otk	Friday HI/Lo/Otk	Saturday HI/Lo/Otk	City	Today HI/Lo/Otk	Friday HI/Lo/Otk	Saturday HI/Lo/Otk
Acapulco	31/23/sh	31/22/pc	32/24/pc	Montego Bay	29/23/pc	28/23/pc	30/23/dz
Antigua	30/23/ts	29/23/sh	28/23/su	Nassau	26/20/su	25/19/sh	22/18/dz
Barbados	29/24/ts	30/24/pc	29/26/pc	Port au Prince	29/23/ts	29/23/pc	29/23/cl
Bermuda	24/17/su	26/19/sh	26/21/sh	Puerto Vallarta	28/16/pc	28/17/su	28/16/su
Cancun	30/20/ts	27/18/ts	24/17/pc	St Thomas	28/22/pc	29/23/pc	28/23/pc
Curacao	32/26/pc	31/26/pc	29/24/pc	St. Maarten	28/23/ts	29/24/sh	28/25/su
Freeport	25/19/su	24/18/sh	21/16/su	San Jose, CR	29/18/ts	28/18/ts	28/18/cl
Georgetown	31/25/ts	31/26/ts	29/23/ts	San Juan	28/22/ts	29/24/pc	29/25/su
Havana	28/21/su	26/19/sh	18/15/su	San Salvador	31/21/pc	32/22/pc	32/22/cl
Key West	26/19/pc	24/18/sh	19/14/su	Santo Domingo	29/23/ts	30/24/pc	31/22/su
Kingston	29/23/pc	29/23/pc	31/29/su	Trinidad	31/25/ts	31/26/ts	31/26/pc

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today HI/Lo/Otk	Friday HI/Lo/Otk	Saturday HI/Lo/Otk	Sunday HI/Lo/Otk	Monday HI/Lo/Otk	Tuesday HI/Lo/Otk	Wednesday HI/Lo/Otk
Bancroft	-9/-17/sn	-11/-19/sf	-9/-13/sf	-4/-11/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-15/sn	-10/-19/pc
Barrie	-8/-16/sn	-10/-18/sf	-8/-12/sf	-3/-10/sf	-3/-9/cl	-7/-14/sn	-9/-18/pc
Dorset	-9/-17/sn	-11/-19/sf	-9/-13/sf	-4/-11/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-16/sn	-10/-19/pc
Haliburton	-9/-17/sn	-11/-19/sf	-9/-13/sf	-4/-11/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-15/sn	-10/-19/pc
Huntsville	-9/-17/sn	-11/-19/sf	-9/-13/sf	-4/-11/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-16/sn	-10/-19/pc
Kingston	-7/-15/sn	-9/-17/sf	-7/-11/sf	-2/-9/sf	-2/-8/cl	-6/-12/sn	-8/-16/pc
Lindsay	-8/-16/sn	-10/-18/sf	-8/-12/sf	-3/-10/sf	-3/-9/cl	-7/-14/sn	-9/-18/pc
Minden	-9/-17/sn	-11/-19/sf	-9/-13/sf	-4/-11/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-15/sn	-10/-19/pc
Oshawa	-7/-14/sn	-9/-16/sf	-7/-11/sf	-2/-9/sf	-2/-7/cl	-6/-12/sn	-8/-16/pc
Ottawa	-7/-15/sn	-9/-16/sf	-7/-12/cl	-3/-12/sf	-4/-10/cl	-7/-16/sn	-11/-19/pc
Toronto	-7/-14/sn	-8/-16/sf	-7/-10/sf	-1/-8/sf	-1/-7/cl	-5/-11/sn	-7/-14/pc

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today HI/Lo/Otk	Friday HI/Lo/Otk	Saturday HI/Lo/Otk	Sunday HI/Lo/Otk	Monday HI/Lo/Otk	Tuesday HI/Lo/Otk	Wednesday HI/Lo/Otk
Calgary	3/-7/cl	1/-5/cl	-1/-8/pc	1/-11/sf	3/-8/cl	4/-7/pc	-4/-10/cl
Edmonton	-3/-9/sf	-2/-9/sf	-6/-12/sf	-4/-13/cl	0/-13/sn	2/-11/sn	-8/-14/cl
Fredericton	-8/-16/cl	-7/-13/sf	-4/-21/sf	-7/-15/sf	-2/-8/sf	-7/-12/cl	-9/-18/pc
Halifax	-2/-6/pc	-2/-8/pc	1/-2/sf	-1/-6/sf	1/-2/cl	0/-4/sn	0/-6/sn
Montreal	-8/-15/sn	-8/-14/sf	-7/-11/cl	-3/-12/sf	-3/-9/cl	-6/-12/sn	-10/-17/pc
Regina	-6/-13/sf	2/-7/pc	-8/-14/sf	-9/-18/pc	-6/-16/sf	-2/-13/pc	-6/-16/pc
St. John's	-3/-7/sn	-1/-6/cl	0/-1/cl	1/0/cl	-2/-3/pc	-1/-6/sn	0/-6/sn
Saskatoon	-4/-12/sf	1/-7/cl	-5/-7/sf	-5/-11/sf	1/-7/cl	-1/-12/cl	-7/-17/cl
Vancouver	6/1/sh	5/0/sh	5/2/sh	7/1/sh	9/3/sh	7/0/sh	8/2/sh
Whitehorse	-6/-12/sn	-7/-14/sn	-11/-14/sn	-11/-17/sn	-15/-32/sf	-13/-27/sn	-12/-23/sn
Winnipeg	-10/-16/sf	-2/-10/sf	-7/-14/sn	-10/-19/sf	-9/-19/sn	-9/-18/pc	-12/-21/cl

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 1/26	-8°C	-27°C	0.0 mm
Sunday 1/25	-11°C	-26°C	0.0 mm
Saturday 1/24	-13°C	-25°C	0.0 mm
Friday 1/23	0°C	-9°C	0.0 mm
Thursday 1/22	-2°C	-7°C	0.0 mm
Wednesday 1/21	-5°C	-26°C	0.0 mm
Tuesday 1/20	-10°C	-23°C	0.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com



Forecasts, graphs and data provided by Weather Central, Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2009

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu. 1/29	7:37 a.m./5:18 p.m.	8:54 a.m./9:06 p.m.
Fri. 1/30	7:36 a.m./5:19 p.m.	9:12 a.m./10:14 p.m.
Sat. 1/31	7:35 a.m./5:21 p.m.	9:32 a.m./11:25 p.m.
Sun. 2/1	7:34 a.m./5:22 p.m.	9:54 a.m./none
Mon. 2/2	7:33 a.m./5:24 p.m.	10:21 a.m./12:39 a.m.
Tues. 2/3	7:31 a.m./5:25 p.m.	10:56 a.m./1:55 a.m.
Wed. 2/4	7:30 a.m./5:27 p.m.	11:41 a.m./3:11 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 24

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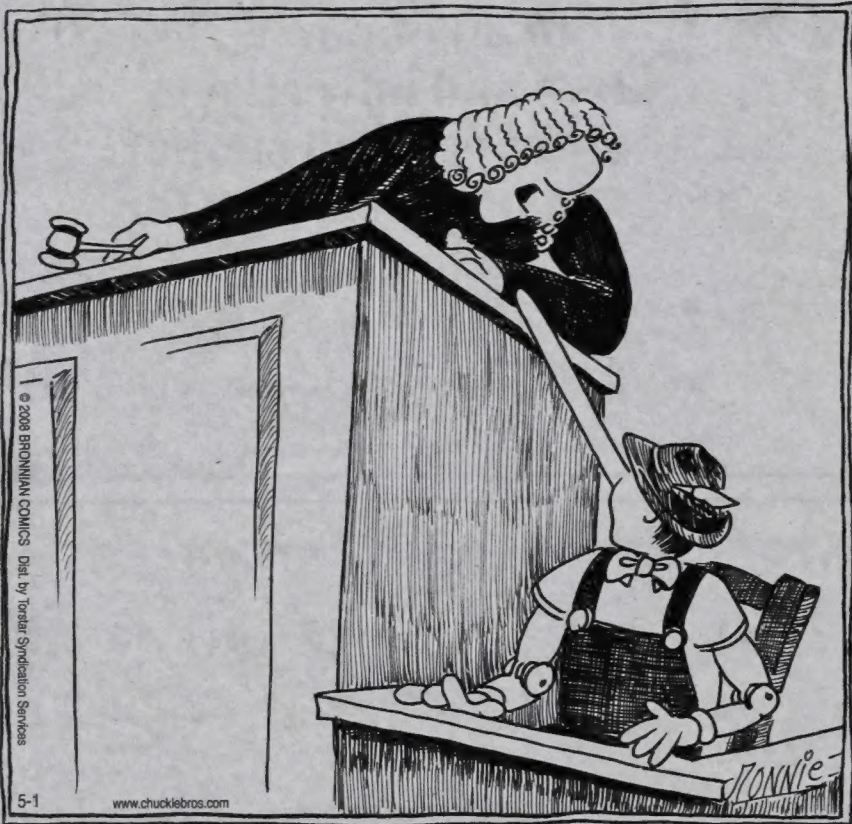


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County Voice



"May I remind the witness he's still under oath."

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"Cannot Haliburton follow Minden's example and remove this snow?"

This is a complaint but because I don't like to complain, I'll put it in another way.

Does the town of Minden have more snow shovels than the town of Haliburton? In Minden it isn't necessary to climb over large snow drifts to get to the stores in which I like to shop, I certainly have to in Haliburton.

The sidewalks are hazardous, at least two if not three feet of snow. Minden's snow is all cleared away.

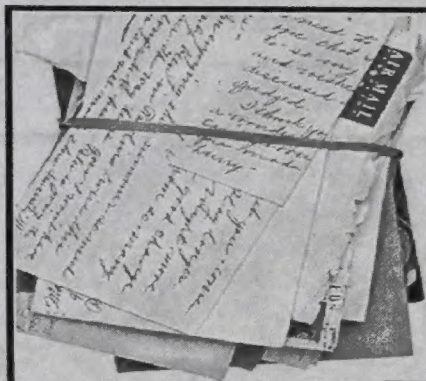
This past Christmas I did all my Xmas shopping in Haliburton and Minden. I live here permanently and I feel a permanent resident should shop in the store wherein she lives. I only went to 'Winners' once.

Going thru' Haliburton today, the snow is still there. Perhaps Minden could loan you a shovel or two.

All joking aside, as a senior citizen, I find it difficult to climb the mounds of snow still there.

"Cannot Haliburton follow Minden's example and remove this snow?" We have had a great deal of snow and there is probably more to come to Haliburton please, find some way to clear the sidewalks. I love Haliburton but it is easier to shop in Minden.

Dorothy Strype, Carnarvon



Letters to the Editor are always welcome

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

by Stephen Patrick



Deficits, Denunciations, and Denial

Lessons in Political Hypocrisy – and Expediency

This week the federal Conservative government brought down the first deficit budget we've seen since the mid 1990s. Prime Minister Stephen Harper inherited a huge surplus when he gained power in 2006 – and by 2007 that surplus had reached almost \$14 billion. In two short years that enormous sum has been used to pay down some federal debt, give some small, short-term tax concessions, and to pay for some incremental program increases.

In the last federal election the Prime Minister downplayed the seriousness of the financial meltdown that decimated equity markets worldwide and virtually strangled the banking system's ability to grant credit. The credit meltdown, despite the laudable strengths and foresight of our own banks, is nevertheless beginning to stretch its tentacles deep into the recesses of our own economy. Auto leases from the Detroit Three are a thing of the past, real estate is lethargic, to say the least, and don't even think of applying for a higher limit on your favourite Visa or MasterCard. And now, our deficit hating PM and his Finance Minister, perhaps the most right wing Conservative ever to occupy the post, have now brought down a federal budget that will result in deficits of over \$60 billion dollars in the next few years.

How the mighty misleaders have fallen. Now, class, surely it's worth a moment or two to reflect on exactly what this same bunch were telling us just a few short years ago, say at the beginning of the last recession, around 1990. Despite inheriting a substantial budget surplus in 1987, the Liberal government of David Peterson managed to turn that into a deficit of some \$3 billion by 1990. Sensing even more trouble ahead, Peterson called a snap election that summer, which produced the most unlikely result in Ontario's political history, to wit the election of Bob Rae's NDP government with just 37 percent of the vote.

During the campaign the Liberal Treasurer, Bob Nixon, claimed the books were balanced. But the cupboard was bare, and revenues plummeting. After two months in office, Rae's government's first budget contained a deficit of some \$10 billion.

We owned and ran a main street Haliburton retail business at that time, and I'll never forget my Conservative friends and customers streaming into the store all day with anger and contempt for that "NDP socialist budget". A few acknowledged the Liberal duplicity: but all maintained a proper government would simply cut billions in spending when times were tough, and not dare to run the province into more debt.

Over the next few years the Conservatives never wavered in their condemnation of the government's management of the economy. After winning power in 1995 at the end of the recession they savaged the social infrastructure, downloaded billions to municipalities, and shredded the "MUSH" sector (municipalities, universities, schools, and hospitals). Yet after just eight years back in power, in 1993 they left a \$5 to \$6 billion deficit to their successors, Dalton McGuinty's Liberals. And now, after preaching the fiscal responsibility mantra unceasingly ever since, the federal Conservatives, with Ontario Tories leading the charge, are leading us into another era of enormous deficits.

The political hypocrisy is breathtaking. The Conservative's economic credibility is up in smoke. Perhaps the only thing you can admire is their unmitigated chutzpah. ■

The County Voice Inc.

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Advertising Manager: Brett Irvine

Managing Editor: Stephen Patrick

Sports Editor: Terrance Gavan

Prepress & Production: Shawn Welsh

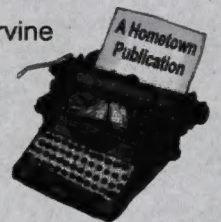
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Police Reports

Search Warrant Executed

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment along with members of the Kawartha Combined Forces Drug Unit executed a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act search warrant on January 16, 2009, at 281 Highland Street in the Village of Haliburton.

Seized during the search warrant were 192 marijuana plants, marijuana leaf, ammunition and firearms.

David Christopher Gerrard 46 years of 281 Highland Street has been charged with Possession of Marijuana for the Purpose of Trafficking, Production of a Schedule II drug (marijuana), Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm and Careless Storage of a Firearm.

Mr. Gerrard will be appearing in Minden Court on March 4, 2009 in relation to the charges. ■

Impaired Drivers Charged

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment charged two drivers with alcohol related Criminal Code Driving offences this past weekend.

On Saturday January 24th at 6:00pm an officer was dispatched to a motor vehicle collision on Maple Ave in the Village of Haliburton. The officer attended the scene and commenced an investigation.

As a result of the investigation the driver of the motor vehicle was arrested.

Andrew Goertzen 32 years of Uxbridge has been charged with Impaired Driving and Driving Over 80 mgs. Mr. Goertzen will be appearing in Minden Court on March 4, 2009 in relation to the charges.

Later that same evening, shortly after 11:30pm officers were called to investigate a report of a vehicle in the ditch on County Road #21 near Witt's End Trail in the Township of Minden Hills.

As a result of that investigation Robert Stevenson 22 years of Minden Hills Township has been charged with Impaired Driving, Drive Over 80mgs and Dangerous Driving. Mr. Stevenson will be appearing in Minden Court on March 4, 2009 in relation to the charges. ■

Man Charged with Racing

An officer from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment charged a driver with Racing yesterday afternoon shortly after 11:00am on County Rd #503 in the Township of Minden Hills.

An officer was conducting radar in Irondale when they observed a Chevy traveling westbound on County Rd #503 at more than 50 km/h over the posted 60 km/h posted speed limit.

Gary Spencer 58 years, of Highlands East Township has been charged for Racing contrary to the Highway Traffic Act and the vehicle he was operating was seized for seven days. ■

Man Charged with Drawing an Occupied Trailer

On Saturday January 24th, 2009 shortly before 3:00pm an officer from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment stopped a vehicle pulling a covered trailer on County Rd #4 in the Township of Highlands East.

During the investigation the officer discovered that several males were seated on a couch that was inside the trailer. The vehicle had been heading from Wilberforce on County Rd #4 towards Highway #118.

The driver of the vehicle Christopher Bowman 26 years of Essa Township has been charged with Drawing an Occupied Trailer contrary to the Highway Traffic Act. ■

Motor Vehicle Collision on Gelert Road



Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment were called to investigate a motor vehicle collision on County Rd #1 in the Township of Minden Hills shortly after 1:30pm yesterday.

The investigation revealed that a Dodge Caravan was westbound on County Rd #1 towards Gelert. As the Caravan rounded a corner the driver lost control and the vehicle entered into the eastbound lane. The Caravan was then struck by a Ford Ranger that was heading eastbound on County Rd #1.

The driver of the Caravan, Jacklin Shank 18 years, of Algonquin Highlands was taken by ambulance to the Minden hospital suffering from non-life threatening injuries. A passenger in her vehicle was not injured in the collision.

The driver of the Ford, Greg Roe 59 years, of Minden Hills Township was taken by ambulance to the Haliburton hospital suffering from non-life threatening injuries.

No charges have been laid. ■



Meet and Greet Gives Public Chance to Voice Their Concerns

... from pg. 1



Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

"People are now interested on talking about issues and today there has been an overwhelming focus on jobs," said Tory in an interview with The Voice. "Residents have been saying that 'we need to have more jobs', because they recognize that if you want to make it a more attractive place for a doctor to come they have to see that it's a community that's thriving."

Tory welcomed the Liberals' announcement of an extension of Hwy 407 East to Hwy 35 to allow easier access to Haliburton County, although he was quick to point out the coincidence of the timing in the middle of a by-election.

"That's going to help make it a more attractive place to create jobs, to invest and for tourists to visit," he said.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tabled a federal budget that is big on tax cuts but is also big on a deficit - \$85 billion over the next five years.

"I think that it's really important when Mr. McGuinty brings in his provincial budget, which includes a significant deficit, I think that it's crucial they have complete transparency about how that money is being spent and that they show the taxpayers," said Tory. "I think it will be very important for Mr. McGuinty to present a credible plan so that when the economy starts recovering he can show us that we'll be out of debt at the earliest possible date."

So could Haliburton County expect to see any money come its way in the near future?

"This county needs two or three things that should be provided in the budget," explained Tory. "We need to see some tax relief, especially for small businesses and families. Secondly, investing in tourism infrastructure is crucial in this part of Ontario. Thirdly, we need to step up the pace of the investment in broadband and make sure that some of the good work that has been done already is multiplied."

Tory also added that the shortage of affordable housing in the area and lack of homecare for seniors are both issues that need to be addressed. ■



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Shared Service Agreement in Trouble

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

Highlands Council meeting last week it became apparent that Lake of Bays is seriously in arrears with their Shared Services Agreement, and that causes concern on a number of levels.

The main street of Dorset acts as the crossroads between Dorset and Lake of Bays and is also the dividing line between Haliburton County and the Muskoka District. Even the Dorset/Muskoka/Haliburton Highlands website refers to the confusion that this often causes; confusion for visitors travelling to Algonquin Park and confusion in politics. And the time for confusion in politics seems to have arrived.

Because they are joined at the hip, the two communities have three agreements for the provision of services including fire protection, road maintenance and a shared service agreement for a catch-all of services which includes the Dorset Heritage Museum, the Raven Lake landing, community policing, the Dorset skating rink and the library complex. The agreements established for fire protection and road maintenance detail shared responsibilities, but there is no requirement for any exchange of funds. With the shared services agreement, each municipality contributes \$15,000 towards maintaining the facilities or preparing for capital projects.

The first sign of a problem emerged during a discussion about the Dorset Park Committee that wants to proceed with soil testing in the current rink location. The Committee want to determine if the area could support a concrete foundation which would make the rink more multi-purpose in nature. Council was concerned that the Committee was moving ahead with projects that had not yet been fully discussed or approved.

In addition, concerns were voiced about sharing the costs of the project given the fact that Lake of Bays is \$30,000 (representing two years) in arrears in their agreement with Algonquin Highlands. Council asked staff to seek further clarification on the plans of the Committee, but at the same time they agreed that they couldn't fund any initiatives until outstanding issues related to the shared service agreement were resolved.

Signs that the problem could be more complicated came during a report to Council by Brian Whetstone, Manager of Operations. Whetstone advised Council that he was getting an ever increasing number of complaints about poor and untimely service by Lake of Bays on the roads they are responsible for and at the Oxtongue landfill site.

Whetstone said that he had spoken with the Lake of Bays Foreman, emphasizing the need for the landfill to be a priority. According to Whetstone, there was no guarantee that this would be done, and in fact suggestions were made that Algonquin Highlands should look at doing the work themselves.

Whetstone suggested to Council that they should go back to looking after the Oxtongue landfill for the year. He added that all the roads work done for Lake of Bays should be off the schedule. He agreed that there would be additional highway travel involved but that it would mean better service for Algonquin Highlands overall and the landfill would be open on time. Council agreed that as there was no money involved, it was Whetstone's decision.

Reeve Eleanor Harrison voiced her disappointment in having to take these measures. She said, "I think of Dorset as a community without separating the Lake of Bays people. Overall it is a vibrant and thriving community and everyone there gets behind community projects and things like the Fire Department."

Harrison then referred Council to a draft letter outlining their concerns about the shared service agreement and asked Coun-

cil's permission to send it to Lake of Bays' Reeve Janet Peake. Harrison spoke about a number of meetings held over the last two years with Lake of Bays and said that each time they met, there seemed to be consensus that the agreement was being drafted for signatures, but remained effective in the interim. Harrison said that an actual signed document had not been in place since 2006.

Harrison reported that staff was not getting the answers they were looking for as they had had been advised that invoices had not been paid because there was no agreement in place. Harrison

said that at the recommendation of their CAO she had called Mayor Peake, advising that Algonquin Highlands would be forwarding an invoice for two years of service. According to Harrison, Peake was unaware of any problems but agreed to look into the matter. Nothing has been heard since January 5th.

Agreeing that something had fallen through the cracks, Council authorized a letter to be sent outlining the municipality's concerns. If no response is heard, Council will request a meeting during March to try to resolve the matter face to face. ■

Algonquin Budget Cont'd....

... from pg. 1

property repairs and fire emergency equipment purchases. A cut was made to travel for the Airport Manager and work on the St. Nora dock and landing was deferred.

On the plus side, some of the major programs and projects included \$687,000 for replacement of the Buckside Bridge, \$220,000 for a tandem plow replacement for Dorset, gravel reconstruction of MacBrien Road, fire extrication stabilization equipment, replacement of the first response unit for Dorset and a drilled well and septic installation at the Oxtongue firehall.

Capital expenditures also included purchasing bear proof recycling bins, storm water management for the Dorset Recreation Centre and a new Water Trails boat and motor.

Some of the other highlights to the budget included increased funding for dock and landing repairs, hard surface rehabilitation to Oliver Road, Barry Line (east and west), Boshkung Lake Road and Harris Road. Forty six thousand dollars was also included to cover a debenture payment for the proposed airport development project. Funds were also set aside for new appliances and repairs to the Oxtongue Community Centre as well as a survey for that property.

In addition, funds were allocated for paving around hangers at the airport, replacement of security fencing at the airport and a new roof for Club 35. A reserve allocation was included to fund a generator for use as a portable power supply to convert the municipal office into an emergency operations centre. Tar and chip resurfacing, considered to be maintenance projects, included the Town Lot, Jones Road, Hewitt Road and Millwoods Road.

Some of the more controversial discussion surrounded the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre and Club 35. Councillor Don Shortreed said that he felt Council owed it to the people in each area to keep the halls open. He said, "We shouldn't prolong the process, and if we don't figure out what we're going to do in the near future, it is simply prolonging the agony for those concerned." Council agreed that they would keep both centres, at least for now, and complete the necessary repairs.

Council was also very concerned about how long they would be required to carry the water trails at a deficit. Although they felt the trails were important to the Municipality and agreed to be optimistic about the success of the program this year, they were also adamant that the budget must be brought in line by next year. Harrison said, "This is the year that the trails program must work, or we're in trouble."

Discussions turned to the Dorset Museum. Concerns were voiced that donations earmarked for specific projects were not

being used as intended or in accordance with donation agreements. \$20,000 intended for capital improvements at the museum was removed from the budget until an understanding is reached and a donation policy established that will work for all concerned parties.

Council also considered whether or not they should proceed with the development of a new website. They finally agreed that, despite the importance of a new site they would limit spending to developing a request for proposals during the year and work on the website itself next year.

Councillor Carol Moffatt spoke out about the \$46,000 debenture payment for the airport project. She voiced concern that Council is asking the taxpayer to carry the burden of the project after saying all along that that wouldn't happen." Moffatt, who has often raised concerns about the airport project also said, "You are cutting museums and the Fire Department to build an airport." To this Harrison responded that all functions of the budget, including the airport, are funded through tax dollars.

Mitchell suggested that funds received through current and future property sales could be applied against the payment. He also said, "If we don't receive the Building Canada funding, we will have to repair the existing runway to the tune of almost a half million dollars. The funds should be set aside to cover the infrastructure debenture payment for the expansion or for rehabilitation if we aren't successful in our application."

Mitchell offered some comparisons of mill rates and assessments between 2007 and 2008 for Council's consideration. The average Algonquin Highlands property assessment increase for 2009 is 9.66 percent. Mitchell said that the proposed municipal tax rate of .2490 will result in a municipal tax rate reduction of 10.076 percent over last year's municipal rate. For comparison purposes, a residential property assessed at \$100,000 last year versus this year would see a property tax decrease of \$27.90.

Mitchell presented figures indicating that, based on this reduction, combined with an actual education rate reduction of 4.54 percent and the estimated reduction by the County of 9.46 percent, residential taxes in Algonquin Highlands result in a decreased blended rate of 7.94 percent.

Although fully prepared to work within the budget established for him, Fire Chief John Hogg had a number of concerns about the cuts to his budget. His concern was that several of the items highlighted in his budget had been emphasized as priorities in the Fire Master Plan. Harrison said, "This is a year where we're nickel and diming everyone and scrutinizing each line item carefully." Having said that, she also agreed that, "Some of the cuts we have made are likely going to come back and haunt us."

Council were in agreement that any 'found' monies through cuts once they had completed their review should go back to the Fire Department. Although it made no difference to the bottom line, the adjustments Council made resulted in approximately \$28,000 being allocated to the Fire Department, to be spent at the Fire Chief's discretion.

Council also held a general discussion about passing a budget that was quite restrictive. Even though they recognized that special considerations would have to be made because of the country's economy, Harrison cautioned that the budget being kept so low this year was something that could not be repeated in subsequent years, without seriously causing ongoing operational and

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Haliburton Health Services Welcomes New CEO

Paul Rosebush Takes Command

Stephen Patrick
Editor



Last week the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Board of Directors formally welcomed its new President and CEO, Paul Rosebush, to the organization. It also heard a kind of state-of-the-nation presentation on the proposed implementation of the Meditech information software throughout the Central East Local Health Initiative Network (CE - LHIN) from Lewis Hooper, the Regional Chief Information Officer and head of the E-Health (Electronic Health) program for the LHIN. Both the information session and the Board discussion that followed showed just how difficult a job Mr. Rosebush will have in reconciling budgetary and political realities for an organization that is so essential to the very fabric of the Haliburton County community.

The provincial government has made the introduction of E-Health a priority throughout Ontario's health system. E-Health essentially means the computerization of all patient records and histories so that they can be accessible to doctors in different centres on demand. The software the government favours is produced by the Medical Information Technology Company, or Meditech, which is one of the oldest and most well known companies in its field. While no one seriously questions the benefits to patients, doctors, and the entire health care system provided by the implementation of E-Health systems, start-up dates and of course deciding just exactly how the systems will be funded are still in the planning stages. The HHHS faces a problem common to almost all health organizations in the province: on the one hand, in order to fulfill their mandates, some deficit financing is required. The province, however, while demanding mandates be fulfilled, also prohibits the HHHS from running deficits. It's this kind of Catch 22 that Board Finance Committee Chair Warren Arseneau and of course, new CEO Paul Rosebush and his finance staff, has to juggle with constantly. For example, Lewis Hooper's E-Health presentation was clear and detailed about what had to be done, and even quite graphic about how E-Health plays a role in the prevention of deaths in hospitals, but mighty slim total cost, funding, and funding schedules. Yet soon the HHHS will be required to proceed: and the HHHS needs what Mr. Arseneau described as a "hard talk" to get some clarity.

In other business, the Board decided to fund the recent purchase of some 71 ceiling lifts from cash, with replenishment to follow from savings and from contributions from the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF). Quality Committee Chair Olaf Kraulis then spoke to the need for community support in tackling the financial challenges the HHHS faces. "We need the partnership of the community", he said, while reiterating how greatly appreciated he felt the HHHS was across the county. Mr. Kraulis also spoke of the need for full and plain disclosure to the public of the financial position of the HHHS.

Dale Walker, Foundation Executive Director, then reported on the success of its Christmas Campaign, which thus far has raised \$93,000, just \$2,000 short of its goal. Ms. Walker also reacted to what was becoming a kind of theme at the meeting of openness and transparency, urging the HHHS Board to plan along with

the Foundation so that there would be a consistent, unified message to take to the public. Finally, Hospital Auxiliary President Judy Skinner reported on the success of its Italian Night Dinner fundraiser, which allowed the Auxiliary to buy a Glide Scope, which is a "Video Laryngoscope" and allows doctors, in Emergency in particular, to examine a patient's airways when the surrounding tissue has been compromised or traumatized. Medical Advisory Committee Chair Dr. Steve Ferracuti thanked Mrs. Skinner on behalf of the doctors, and commented on what a valuable addition the Glide Scope will be to the ER.

In a later interview new President and CEO Paul Rosebush reiterated his commitment to a policy of open communication with the various stakeholders of the HHHS. In just his third week in the job, a period of "discovery and excitement" for him, he has already identified community engagement as a major goal for himself and the HHHS in the coming year. "I also support fully the broad objectives of the LHIN for our area - I believe it will only help our patients receive better care. And E-Health is a part of that - clearly we have significant catching up to do there."

Rosebush comes to the CEO job after a stint in Hay River, NWT as head of Health Care and the local Social Services network. He spent 20 years in the Canadian Military Health Services, rising to the rank of Captain. The Military Health Services were responsible for both Health and Social Services, allowing him to work with doctors, social workers, nurses and administrators all at the same time. He also gained a deep appreciation of "the continuity of care" that system provided, and which is an increasingly important part of the HHHS' mandate. What's called "Alternate Levels of Care", or ALC is also a huge challenge for the HHHS. ALC refers to, in part, patients who have finished the acute care phase of their treatment, but still occupy an acute care bed. But Rosebush also sees just how community-oriented the HHHS is, and how, in a sense, "old-fashioned" the care is when doctors so often know their patients' families, their children, have seen them out at the hockey rink or in school, and so on. This is just one more reason why Rosebush believes so strongly in openness and communication. Lack of information in a small community simply breeds rumour and misinformation, for example.

Rosebush is under no illusion as to how deep the financial challenges to our health care system are going to be. And in response to a question about the likelihood of a deficit, he quickly points out that with a budget of approximately \$18 million, a deficit of some \$200,000 is just over one percent, which doesn't exactly sound like profligacy.

Paul Rosebush is clearly a passionate believer both in public health care and already appreciates the uniqueness of the HHHS, and the deep regard in which it is held by the community (see this week's Vox Pop on Page 27). And his commitment to communication and openness can only be welcomed by patients and health professionals alike. ■



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Feb. 2, 1887, Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time in Punxsutawney, Pa. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

On Feb. 3, 1959, rising American rock stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson are killed when their chartered Beechcraft Bonanza airplane crashes in Iowa a few minutes after takeoff from Mason City on a flight bound for Minnesota.

On Feb. 4, 1789, 69 members of Congress cast their ballots to elect George Washington the first president of the United States. After months of appearing to sidestep, and even outright rejecting, the idea of assuming the presidency, Washington reluctantly accepted Congress' decision.

On Feb. 5, 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt announces a controversial plan to expand the Supreme Court to as many as 15 judges. Critics immediately charged that Roosevelt was trying to "pack" the court and thus neutralize Supreme Court justices hostile to his New Deal.

On Feb. 6, 1820, the first organized immigration of freed slaves to Africa from the United States departs New York harbor on a journey to Sierra Leone in West Africa. The expedition was partially funded by the U.S. Congress, which had appropriated \$100,000 to be used in returning displaced Africans to Africa.

On Feb. 7, 1812, the most violent of a series of earthquakes near Missouri causes a so-called fluvial tsunami in the Mississippi River, actually making the river run backward for several hours. One of the tremors in the series caused church bells to ring in Boston, more than a thousand miles away.

On Feb. 8, 1924, the first execution by lethal gas in American history is carried out in Carson City, Nev. The executed man was Tong Lee, a member of a Chinese gang who was convicted of murdering a rival gang member.

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Canadian Federation of University Women Joins Forces With SIRCH



University Women's Federation Members Sandra Daoust, Lindy Smith and Sybil Roodenburg present cheque to SIRCH Executive Director Gena Robertson and Social Marketer Nancy Brownsberger.

Each year, the Haliburton Highlands chapter of the Canadian Federation of University of Women (CFUW) raise funds to support various community endeavours. This year, one of the local organizations the group has chosen to support is SIRCH Community Services & Consulting.

SIRCH representatives were invited to receive a cheque for \$500 from the CFUW during the group's regular monthly meeting held last Thursday at Haliburton's Fleming College campus.

"This means a great deal to the families that we help support," said Gena Robertson, SIRCH Executive Director.

SIRCH is a non-profit, charitable organization that runs several community based programs in the county. Their programs aid those who face financial barriers, individuals in need of support during a time of illness, new parents and many others.

Funds donated by the Haliburton chapter of CFUW will go into SIRCH's Healthy Children Program. The program helps educate parents on how to prepare cost efficient, nutritious meals and addresses the struggles they may have in providing nutritious food options to their families on a small budget.

Events and initiatives within the program include: Community Kitchen, Healthy Lunch Box, Chef of the Month and Healthy Meals for the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) and the Canada Natal Nutrition Program (CNNP).

The CFUW's contribution will go towards food, supplies and necessities for parents and families.

In a letter, the CFUW states that they chose to make a donation to SIRCH in order to help keep children in the county "well-fed, healthy and happy."

In Haliburton, the CFUW was started in 2003 by five Haliburton women, all of whom were members of the organization with chapters in other locations. The CFUW is a group that is open to all women who are university graduates or have earned a professional qualification that currently requires a university or college degree.

This non-profit, self funded group meets monthly, providing its members with opportunities for friendship and learning through an educational program incorporating social and cultural issues. ■

Blue Sky Yoga Studio Holds Grand Opening in Haliburton



Yoga Instructors Lynda Shadbolt (left) and Gail Holness (right) celebrate the opening of the Blue Sky Yoga Studio with Dr. Katie Hammerschmidt (centre) at the Haliburton Chiropractic & Massage Therapy. For bookings/information phone 705 457-3500.

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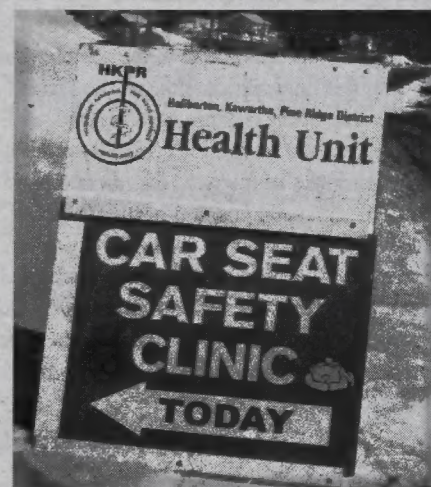
Although the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) hosted a car seat clinic last Saturday, that doesn't mean that you've missed your chance to have your vehicle inspected.

Since car crashes are the number one cause of death for Canadian children, representatives from the HKPR are encouraging those with car seats to book an appointment with them.

"Studies show that about 80 per cent of car seats are installed incorrectly," said Karen Pettinella, Public Health Nurse with the HKPR.

Common errors of improperly installed seats include loose seatbelts and harnesses, and improper use of the tether strap when required. The law requires drivers ensure that passengers under the age of 16 are secured properly in their vehicle. Failure to do so may result in a \$90 fine, plus two demerit points and a victim surcharge.

To book your appointment call the Health Unit at 705 457-1391 and ask for Karen Pettinella or Angela VanBerlo. ■



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Places for People Hosts Second Successful Fundraiser

Group Aims to Provide Affordable Rental Housing to Those at Risk in County

People at the Dominion Hotel were bobbing their heads, tapping their toes and clapping their hands to the sweet sounds of jazz bands Ragged Company and Jazz Kitchen last Saturday while they helped out Places for People, a non-profit community based organization. Over \$1,100 was raised through the group's second annual fundraiser.

At the sold-out event, people also had the chance to dine on a hearty meal and purchase raffle tickets for prizes. Dominion

Hotel owner Shawn Chamberlain also awarded one lucky winner with a free brunch at his establishment.

Places for People is a local organization that is working to provide safe and affordable housing for those at risk of homelessness in Haliburton County. The group is trying to raise enough funds to purchase a property large enough to hold a two-unit building on it.

Fay Martin,

President of Places for People, says that future fundraisers, similar to the evening of jazz, will likely be held in the upcoming Spring and Fall months. She admits that the search for a suitable property has been difficult, however, she believes one will be located in due time.

"I get frustrated because we haven't found a property yet, but I'm an impatient person," said Martin.

To learn more about Places for People visit www.placesforpeople.ca, or to find out how you can help the group with their goal, contact Fay Martin at 705 286-3668. ■

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter



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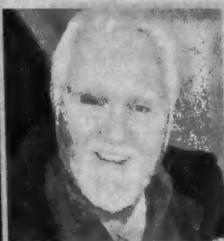
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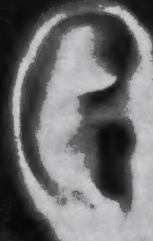
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Grant to Highlands East Announcement Finally Made

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Last week a media release came out of MP Barry Devolin's office announcing a \$347,900 grant for Highlands East under the Ontario Potable Water Program. Devolin was quoted as saying, "Our government is committed to supporting our communities. This OPWP grant will allow the Township to direct resources to priority areas within their communities."

The only problem with the announcement was that there was no new funding available for the Highlands East coffers. It actually referred to funding received last November for a project that was initiated in 2001.

Not that the announcement didn't get everyone going for a few minutes. With so many infrastructure projects on the books and everyone waiting to hear how much funding may be forthcoming from the Federal Government, anything was possible. Why else would Devolin's office be making the announcement?

When contacted, Reeve Dave Burton admitted he'd initially been caught off guard himself. He said, "The announcement is misleading." Burton confirmed that the money, which was earmarked for upgrading the water systems in Dyno, Cardiff and Wilberforce, was received last fall.

Jamie Schmale, Devolin's Executive Assistance, said that the announcement should have been made last fall. When asked why it was made so late, he said, "Highlands East got the cheque during the election, and no announcements could be made at that time. The Department finally made the official announcements last week."

According to Highlands East CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig, the funding actually goes back to an application that was originally submitted in 2001 under the Ontario Small Town and Rural Development Infrastructure Program. "We originally applied to upgrade the Dyno and Cardiff wells, but before the projects were completed the incident in Walkerton changed all of the rules."

Stoughton-Craig said that Walkerton caused the Ministry of Environment to making continuous changes to the regulations for several years which meant that additional work was also needed in Wilberforce and the cost to the Dyno and Cardiff up-

grades increased substantially. She said, "The province and the federal government, through Industry Canada, recognized that the changes were creating large project overruns. Based on resolutions coming from a number of municipalities petitioning for extra money, they developed a program that would assist with the overruns."

The Ontario Potable Water Program (OPWP) makes funding available to municipalities that have experienced increased costs for their Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program (COIP) water projects to comply with changes to Ontario drinking water regulations. This one-time investment enables municipalities to re-

spond to economic development opportunities and help rebuild community capacity.

Ontario municipalities are eligible for OPWP funding if they have completed a COIP drinking water project and have incurred increased project costs in order to comply with changes to provincial drinking water regulations.

Stoughton-Craig confirmed that the projects were finally completed in 2007. ■

Starting Off On the Right Foot SIRCH Programming Helps Parents Be the Best They Can

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Prior to the global economic crisis, Haliburton County was already labelled as the one of the poorest areas in the province. Findings in a 2006 study by the Early Intervention Network of Haliburton County show that we have the second lowest average earnings for full-time, full year employed males and females in Ontario. Manitoulin District is the only place off worse than us in the province.

But because the problem is such a visibly prominent one in this tourism destination, local organizations and people have taken it upon themselves to come to the aid of those in need of it most.

SIRCH Community Services & Consulting is just one of these groups. Located in Haliburton, SIRCH is a non-profit charitable organization that provides community-based direct services, consulting, training and resources to those in the county.

In recent months, the organization has tackled familial poverty and what living on a small fixed budget means for many families in the county.

Since regular monthly bills like rent, hydro and heat are high priority payments for most, shopping for groceries often takes the back seat. For families, going hungry for a couple of days is a sacrifice they're willing to make. Getting kicked out of their home because they failed to pay the rent isn't.

Two initiatives within SIRCH that address the importance of healthy eating amongst young children and parenting techniques include the Government funded Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), also known locally as "Bright Starts", and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), known as "The Special Delivery Club".

These programs started in 1996, and were first brought to life in Haliburton through SIRCH. In the county, these programs have many partners including: The Ontario Early Years Center, Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, the Family Health Team and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit.

CAPC programming addresses the health and development of children (0-6 years) who are living in conditions of risk. The aim of CPNP programming is to reduce incidences of unhealthy birth weights, improve the health of both infant and mother and encourage breastfeeding.

Bright Starts programs are held on Wednesday's at the Haliburton arena and The Special Delivery Club runs every Friday at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton. Both programs run for 48 weeks of the year and a total of 34 local families are currently participating.

"SIRCH's programs focus on providing support and education to the families it serves," said Nancy Brownsberger, Social Marketer for SIRCH.

As well as educating families at the weekly sessions, a volunteer cook and sometimes a nutritionist from the HKPR, come in to help two to three parents make a nutritional meal that is shared during the lunch hour.

The Voice paid a visit to a recent Bright Starts session to speak with a couple of parents who know all too well what it's like to live on a tight budget.

"Being in this group (Bright Starts) keeps you up-to-date on meal ideas for kids and it gives you a wide diversity of ideas," said Eagle Lake resident Tammy Bullock. Bullock is a single parent with a two year-old daughter. She currently isn't working and is living on disability insurance because of a motorcycle accident.

Bullock says that the Bright Starts program is also a good initiative because it allows parents to share ideas with one another and gives kids time for social interaction.

"There's a real sense of community and parent involvement here," she said. "This program is key."

In October, SIRCH introduced their "Chef-of-the-Month" challenge. With the unique initiative, local area chefs have been invited to prepare meals at Foodland in Haliburton on a meal plan budget of only \$6.50 per day for a family of four. That challenge continues, as none of the participants have managed to stay within that figure when planning healthy meals.

Since Bullock runs a household of only two people, she says she's able to stay within that meager budget, and with Bright Starts, she's learned ways of shopping wisely.

"I've learned how to make more educated selections and get the most of the items I'm buying."

Catherine Wheeler, a married Haliburton resident with three children ages 3-8, says that she shops for groceries with whatever is left after the bills are taken care of.

"I'd say that more than half of our household income goes to bills," said Wheeler, who estimates that she spends an average of \$200 every two weeks on food. "We always try to shop on a budget and I'm lucky because my husband knows how to cook!"

When asked if living on the \$6.50 figure is feasible for a family of four, Wheeler responded by saying "no."

"That's pretty much impossible if you want to feed your family with healthy food," she said.

To learn more about these beneficial programs, contact Nancy Brownsberger at 705 457-1742 extension 21. For more information on SIRCH go to www.sirch.on.ca. ■

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Rail Trail Under Five-Year Review

Strong Opinions Expressed on Future Usage of Multi-Purpose Trail

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

By looking around the Haliburton County Council Chambers room in Minden on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 22, it was easy to see that the public is keen on learning about the future of the Haliburton County Rail Trail. In listening to the 17 presentations made and 18 letters read during the public input meeting, strong opinions on the current state of the multi-purpose trail route and ideas for what should happen to it were expressed.

The Rail Trail consists of approximately 34 km of trail that runs south from Haliburton to Kinmount. The trail is open year-round and is open to those who use motorized vehicles and those who use it for other purposes. In the winter season, access to the trail is strictly open to snowmobilers.

Five years ago, a standing committee was formed to manage the Rail Trail. Prior to the committee forming, the trail was managed by the County of Haliburton. The committee consists of volunteers, some of whom are avid outdoors-people and others who own property adjacent to the trail.

On Thursday, the committee held a meeting to gain input from the community that will be considered as they head into their first five-year review of the Rail Trail Master Plan. The Master Plan is a 92-page document that highlights key uses for the trail, identifies parts of the trail, lists maintenance plans, provides a cost inventory for upkeep and has an economic impact analysis section.

A large portion of presenters at the meeting were supportive of keeping the Rail Trail open for motorized uses, but those who feel that the trail would be better served for other purposes also had their say.

"Of the 68 Rail Trails that I

have reviewed in Ontario, only seven of those allow ATV's on them," said Pamela Marsales, former member of the Rail Trail committee. Marsales said that the trail is difficult for walkers, cyclists and those who have mobility problems because of the effects ATV use has on the trail. She also says that motorized vehicles present a safety issue to these non-motorized users.

"They are defeated by the inclusion of ATV tourism," said Marsales in a follow-up phone interview with The Voice. Marsales believes that focusing on non-motorized use of the trail would prove to be more appealing to a wide range of the public and the environment.

In one letter, Angela VanBerlo, on behalf of the Aging-Well Haliburton County Committee, stated that the Rail Trail should undergo changes in order to be more user-friendly to the large senior population in the area.

"About 24 per cent of the population here is over the age of 65," said VanBerlo in her letter. "Currently, people use the Rail Trail for both motorized and non-motorized activities. Because this trail in Haliburton is in a flat location and is close to the amenities of Haliburton Village, it could provide seniors with access to a safe trail and potential recreational activities that would help to keep them physically active."

In the letter, the Aging-Well Committee suggests that a portion of the Rail Trail be designated for non-motorized use and that it be upgraded with a smoother surface to travel on.

Sue Shikaze, Health Promoter with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) and member of the Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition, also submitted a letter

in which she outlined problems with the current trail and pointed out possible changes that if made would make it better to use for those in search of physical activity.

"The Rail Trail is a huge asset and has great potential for phys-



ical activity," stated Shikaze in her letter. "Right now there are significant barriers with the trail. The trail surface is loose and uneven, which makes it difficult to walk on for older adults and those with strollers. Motorized users often go faster than the speed limit and don't stop or slow down." Shikaze would like to see sections of the trail designated for both motorized and non-motorized use: improvements made to the surface of the trail and increased enforcement of speed limits.

Many users of motorized vehicles expressed their strong opinions on why keeping the Rail Trail open for multi-purpose uses is the most viable option. Many of these presenters spoke about how the recreational activities of ATving and snowmobiling generate dollars for the county. They also talked about the stewardship work they routinely perform on the trail.

"Since we are centrally located in the province, our trail system is the desired destination by riders throughout Ontario and the United States," explained Andy Chvedukas, President of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA). "Part of the attraction of our trail system is the Rail Trail, which is our signature trail." Chvedukas

also added that "it's a well known fact that snowmobilers have funds and are willing to spend those funds at desirable destinations (Haliburton County being one of them)."

Mark Coles, President of the Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) and Director of ATV Ontario, said that his group has had a positive impact on the Rail Trail and Haliburton County in general.

"HATVA has made a real tangible contribution to the Rail Trail," began Coles. "We have come to the plate repeatedly and have lived up to terms of our contract with the county and the upholding of the county by-law."

Coles said that HATVA has insured the trail for the past five years, they warden the trail during the ATV off and on seasons and volunteer their time and money to keep signage up-to-date for ATV users and others.

"We also pick-up garbage two times per season, and let me tell you, since HATVA has been involved the amount of garbage on the Rail Trail has declined exponentially," he said.

Coles mentioned that the work his group willingly performs is often taken for granted and that it's time people stop advocating to get them off the trail.

"We don't mind being the worker bees, provided that we get the respect we deserve and that the non-motorized folks stop trying to throw us off the trail when they contribute little to the upkeep and management of the trail," said Coles.

Paul Prentice, owner of Prentice Power Sports in

"Since we are centrally located in the province, our trail system is the desired destination by riders throughout Ontario and the United States." Andy Chvedukas, President Haliburton County Snowmobile Association

Minden, expressed his opinion on the importance of allowing motorized vehicles on the Rail Trail via a submitted letter.

"So many local businesses gain direct income from sleds and ATV's," stated Prentice in his letter. "Denying the trail to them denies income to our town."

A bevy of other comments, suggestions and concerns were brought up during the duration of the three-hour meeting.

News of the public input session was first advertised in the local media about three weeks before the event and some felt that notices should have gone out to the public sooner than they did.

Cheryl Murdoch, Meeting Chair and County Councillor, felt otherwise.

"I disagree with that," said Murdoch in a phone interview with The Voice. "There is a timeline and formula for this

and we followed it. Those who didn't get to have their say can still submit their letters to the committee."

Letters in regards to the five year review of the Haliburton County Rail Trail will be accepted until Friday, Feb. 6 and should be sent to the Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network office by email, fax or mail. For more information contact Tegan at 705 489-4049.

It is expected that sometime in April the Rail Trail Committee will submit to County Council their final recommendation for the trail. In the end the county will have the final say.

To take a look at the Master Plan from 2007 visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca, click on the County link, then on the Rail Trail link and finally The Rail Trail Master Plan link at the bottom of the page. ■

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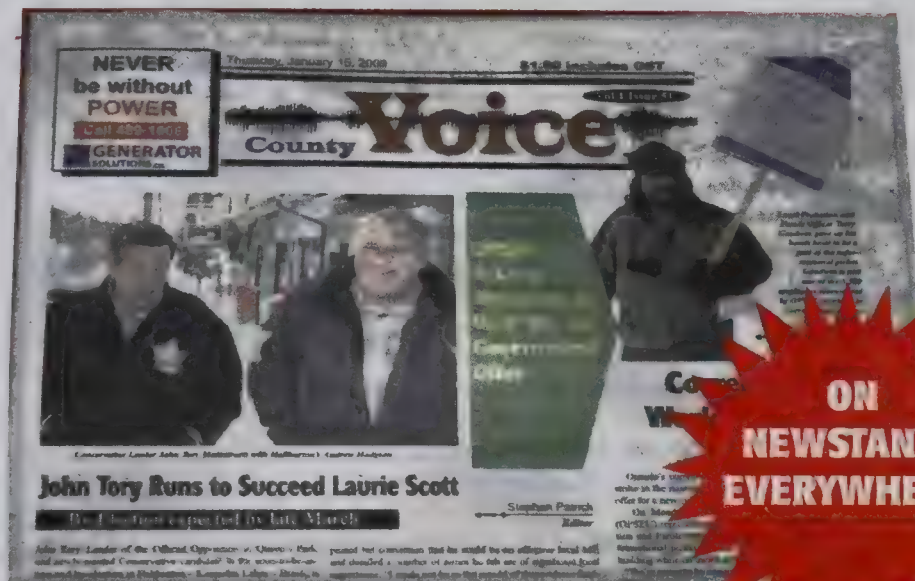
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Taking It One Day at a Time Haliburton Couple Remains Positive While Confronted With Difficult Disease

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Lita Peirol remains very active for her age. The 78-year-old Haliburton resident is a member of the Taoist Tai Chi Society; she plays Bridge and gets out to socialize with those in her community. While some with Alzheimer's may dwell on their condition, Lita has chosen to live each day to the fullest and go about her regular business as if nothing were out of the ordinary.

It was three years ago that the retiree was first diagnosed with the same progressive, degenerative disease that her mother Alice suffered from for many years and was eventually completely consumed by.

"Occasionally I would find myself in a situation when I couldn't recognize where I was and that started to bother me," she explained in an interview with The Voice.

Her 82-year-old husband Fred also took notice of some of the early signs that indicated something was awry.

"I noticed that she had short-term memory loss," he said.

Alzheimer's is a disease that ends up seriously impairing one's ability to think and remember. One of the most common forms of dementia, those with the syndrome incur problems with judgment and reasoning and they can go through abrupt mood swings. The ability to communicate is also impacted by the condition.

In essence, the disease eats away at person's brain tissue, resulting in shrinkage of the brain and the symptoms listed above.

Alzheimer's is typically prevalent in those ages 65 and older. According to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, half-a-million Canadian's currently have the disease or a related dementia.

When Lita first suspected something was wrong, she went to see her doctor in Toronto who referred her to a specialist. After undergoing the initial tests that checked her memory, she was told to come back in a year for a conclusive report.

The news that confirmed Lita had Alzheimer's wasn't what she was hoping to hear, nor was it the diagnoses her husband of 56 years wanted.

"You just have to deal with it," she explained.

"I'd like to think that I deal with in a mature way. I'm not exactly young, and with age something is bound to happen. This is what it is, so you deal with it the best you can."

"It shakes you up, there's no two ways about it," said Fred about the diagnoses. "It didn't come as a shock because I suspected it for some time."

The speed at which Alzheimer's progresses is different for each person affected. In most cases, the disease advances slowly in stages, and the symptoms of each stage may overlap, often making the move from one stage to the next quite subtle. The duration of the disease is usually seven to 10 years, but may last much longer in some people.

Lita is still in the early stage of Alzheimer's. Therefore, she can still carry on insightful conversations and recount details of past experiences.

For now, Lita says that the most frustrating symptom as a result of the disease is when she faces a sudden state of confusion.

"It's extremely easy for me to get confused," she explained. "If I get confused I get completely lost. If I get completely lost then I get upset about that."

Though there isn't a cure yet for the disease, medications are available to treat symptoms those in the mild to moderate stages suffer from. Support services are also in place to help those with Alzheimer's and their families understand and cope with the disease.

When Lita's mother Alice had the disease in the 1950's, she said that people weren't aware of what it was or how difficult it made life for those who suffered from it.

"I'm awfully glad that I'm living in today's day and age and am not in my mother's era," she said. "Very few people were understanding of it and how hard it was on our family."

Lita says that her mother had Alzheimer's for a long time, anywhere between 18-20 years. As Alice's condition grew worse, Lita and her father had to tend to her on a day-to-day basis.

"Everything was done for my mother," Lita recalled. "My dad would look after her and I would do just as much. For example, the supper would be cooked for her and the dishes would be washed

too. As the disease progressed, she was more less just there in physical form and no longer there in the mind."

Lita also remembers how unreasonable her mother was in certain situations because of what the disease did to her mind.

"One time when I was in the grocery store with her, she decided that she wanted to buy some porridge. When we found some, I picked up a regular size bag. My mom wanted a 20-lb bag and that's when I tried to tell her, 'you don't want a 20-lb bag of cereal!' Well, she became really loud and unreasonable then."

In 1966, Alice succumbed to the illness at the age of 74.

In Haliburton County, SIRCH Community Services & Consulting, a non-profit charitable organization that provides community-based direct services, offers support to local families affected by the disease through their Community Hospice program.

Fred currently attends caregiver group sessions hosted by SIRCH where discussions about the disease are held.

"We discuss the problems among us and the progress of the disease in those we deal with," he said. Through the sessions, he has learned about how seriously debilitating Alzheimer's can become in severe cases.

"It can get to the point where they don't know how to feed themselves, they don't know how to dress themselves and cannot get themselves to bed," he pointed out. "It gets pretty hairy in the late stages."

Lita doesn't attend these sessions, but she receives support from a local resident who volunteers her time to visit the couple's home every other week and accompanies Lita on outings to the Village of Haliburton.

"That is very, very nice," she said smiling. "I'm very thankful for her, she has been very helpful."

There's no telling how long it will take for Lita to move into the next stage of her condition. It's not something she tries to think about often either.

"There are some people who can go for 20 years and then there are some who are gone in five years or less," she said. "I try to live for today. I wake up in the morning and I say to myself, 'I'm here, I feel fairly good and the sun is shining.'"

Both realize that a time will come when the disease has fully taken over Lita's life. "My children want to be able to do a lot for me, but I feel that once it gets bad I should be in some sort of institution where I'll get the around-the-clock care that I'll need," she said.

In Canada, the month of January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Fred and Lita agree that some people can be naïve about the disease, so providing them with the facts should be promoted.

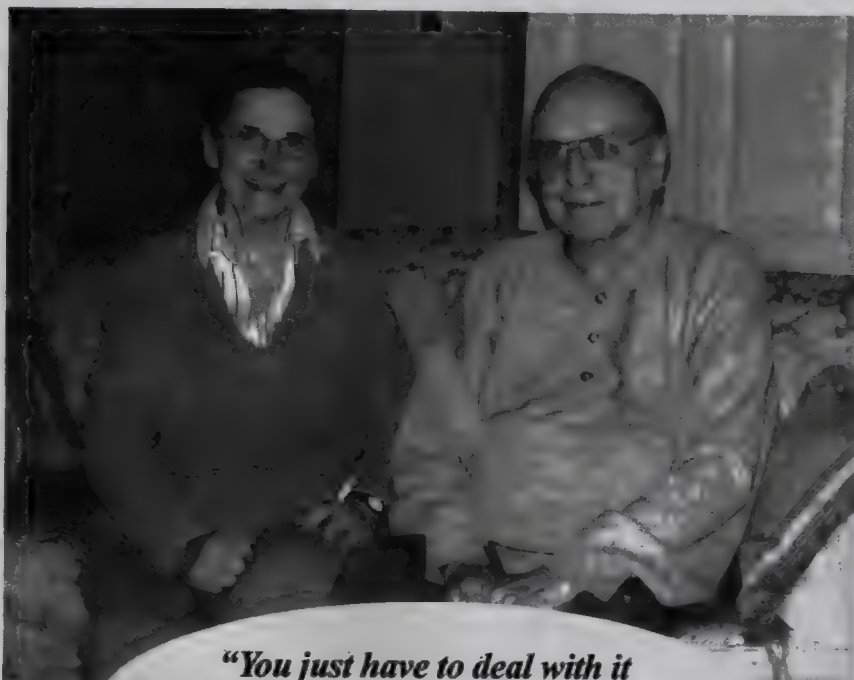
"I think there should be more public information about the disease," said Fred, while Lita added, "There's so much more to it than just being forgetful."

The two say they are extremely thankful for the support they've received from their community over the past couple of years.

"I want to stress how much both of us appreciate the care that people in the community have shown us," said Fred. "It's amazing."

"It really means a lot," added Lita.

For all the facts associated with Alzheimer's disease visit The Alzheimer's Society of Canada web site at www.alzheimer.com. For details on SIRCH programming available to families and loved ones, call Lynn Higgs Thompson, Hospice/Alzheimer Client Services Coordinator, at 705 457-1742, extension 36.



*"You just have to deal with it
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Lita Peirol*

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Alicia Sales Bursts Onto the Canadian Music Scene in Style



Her CD Cover

Former Haliburton resident Alicia Sales launched her solo career in style in front of a packed house at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel on Wednesday, Jan. 21 during her debut CD release party. The 25-year old songstress, along with her four-piece band, delivered an energizing performance of 10 original songs from her new self-titled pop/rock album.

Sales wasted no time in letting the audience know that she doesn't plan on gently easing into the Canadian music scene by belting out a rendition of her emotional and gut-wrenching rock tune "Break Me". Having caught the audience's attention, she smoothly switched into the fast and lilting "Your Own Eyes," followed by the slow and almost hypnotizing "Used to Be".

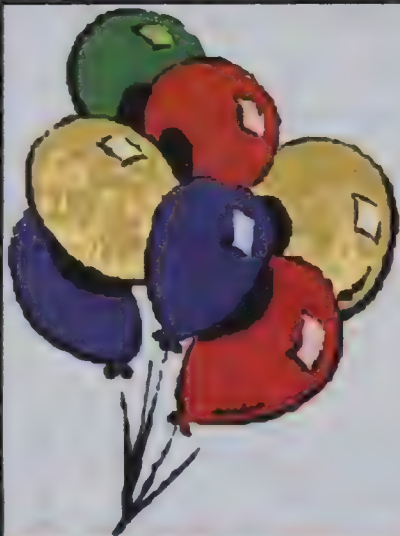
"This album has something for everyone in it," said Alicia, of her 10 original written songs. "From humour to laughter to sadness, I think everyone can relate in one way or another to these lyrics. Sometimes when people can't fully express themselves with words, they can find a song that expresses better what they are feeling. They can then lean on it and rely on that song to help them

through whatever may be going on in their life either positive or negative."

Despite having moved to Toronto to pursue her musical career Alicia has a special place for the town in which she was born and raised.

"My Haliburton heritage has definitely played a special part in my album's production. Growing up in the Highlands has given me an incredible appreciation for life. My Haliburton roots will always be with me," said Alicia.

Well known local musicians Ryan Chalmers and Joe Arnup were on stage backing up Alicia for the exciting performance. Having already played throughout the world as the popular lead singer of a Dixie Chicks Tribute Band, Alicia will be soon launching a solo tour to promote her new CD. Plans also call for her to secure a record label to help her reach the next stage. You can purchase copies of "Alicia Sales" locally at V & S Department Store, Haliburton Home Hardware, or Cordell Carpet or on her website at www.AliciaSales.com.



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Artist William Wilson Makes a Statement



"Wilson signs off on a painting only when a piece 'feels right'."

Bill Wilson has come a long way since enrolling in the Fine Arts Program at Georgian College in Barrie back in the 1990s. Bill had always been an ardent drawer and painter – but the experience at Georgian, working under the instruction of such talented artists as Ted Fullerton, Stuart Oxley and others was essential in giving him the tools he needed to start his own career as an artist.

This month at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery Wilson is exhibiting his latest work in a dramatic and arresting show that lasts until February 7th. The intimate space of the Rails End's Members Gallery shows Wilson's work off to perfection: his use of non-traditional tools, his application of acrylics, oils, and charcoals produce effective extremes of colour and proportion. In his "Artist's Statement" Wilson places himself firmly in the tradition of the American modernist Jackson Pollock: his hope is "to create art that is both unique and exiting to both himself and the viewer." He believes in his "natural intrinsic, artistic capabilities, and avoids, where possible, planning any set artistic outcome. I want my art to make the viewer ask what its meaning really is."

Wilson's work is interesting, challenging, and certainly comes straight from the heart. The Rails End Gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 until 6, Saturday from 10 until 5. ■

Magical Moments in Minden

Illusionists Put On Whimsical Performance for Audience of All Ages



Mind-bending illusions and theatrics dazzled a large crowd at the Minden Community Centre last Saturday when a world renowned magic act came to town.

About 300 people packed the upper level of the community centre to witness the tricks of illusionists Ted Outerbridge and his wife Marion. The pair performed excerpts from their popular "Magical Moments in Time" show – an act that combines real-life experiences with a unique fusion of magic, comedy dance and theatre.

In the past, the show has played to sold-out houses and standing ovations across Canada and Europe.

Rick Cox, Director of Community Services for the Township of Minden Hills, was pleased with the large turnout for the entertaining show.

"It was a unique show for the town of Minden," said Cox. "People really got a lot of value for the price of their ticket." Tickets were \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

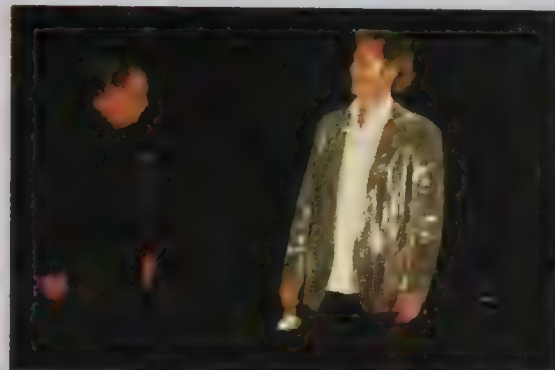
Also on Saturday (in the morning before the show), Outerbridge taught a few simple tricks to a small group of kids in a magic class at the community centre.

Both events were brought to the town by Minden's Sesquicentennial Planning Committee and the Township of Minden Hills.

From Saturday, Feb. 14 – Monday, Feb. 16, Minden will host Winterfest, a week-end event full of fun activities for the whole family.

Many more future events are planned in celebration of the town's 150th anniversary. To find out what's coming up visit www.minden150.ca.

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



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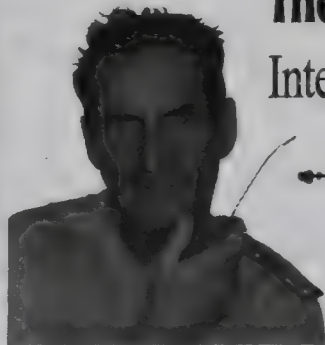


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The Serbs and Croats Sure Know How to Hug a Grudge Interview with a Chair Thrower



Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

This just in on my Twitter from the Guardian of London.

"The Australian Open is fast getting a reputation as the Fight Club of the tennis world after fans from the Serb and Croat communities clashed yesterday, hurling chairs and missiles at each other and injuring an innocent bystander."

You may have seen it on the news or maybe on TSN, our all-star sports network that kept the Serbo-Croat riot incident on a continuous and riotously funny loop for about 72 hours last weekend.

This year's hijinks bubbled to frothy fruition as defending Aussie Open Champion (and Serbian) Novak Djokovic hugged Bosnian-born American Amer Delic at the net after the defending champ's third-round win. This was apparently too much for some ex-pat Serbs and Croats, now living in Australia, who harbor deep and rooted fears that letting bygones be bygones may lead to tolerance, peace and understanding between the two internecine factions.

The London Guardian reported that, "Under the hot Melbourne sun tensions boiled over in the beer garden outside center court. Drinks, tennis balls, punches and dozens of chairs were thrown, the first of which knocked a female Bosnian supporter to the ground. A witness said the woman 'got the full force of it' and lay on the ground for some time."

Both Djokovic and Delic had pleaded with fans before the match to forget the past. Delic wrote on his personal blog: "As we all know, Bosnians and Serbs have had some differences in the past, however, this is not the place nor time to settle those differences," he wrote.

What's causing this and why, oh why, can't the Serbs and Croats just unclench the fists and let it go?

I phoned a guy in Melbourne who should know. Professor Dukit Outic is a Serbian who holds doctorates in Functional Flagrant Anthropology and Abnormal Political Science and he teaches at Melbourne University. He was also one of the chair-wielding idiots holding forth at the Aussie Open beer tent last Friday.

"Are you sorry it happened professor?" I asked.

"Sorry? No, never. We had a few Fosters, I cheered as my countryman Novak ground that piece of crap Croat-born Yank into the ground with the heel of his very stylish Nike Avenger boot," said professor Outic. "The trouble came when these mealy-mouthed Croats in the beer garden begin to whine like puppies about this and that and how their precious Yankee-defector Delic should have won. Bah! Babies, whiney snobs. One thing leads to another and chairs begin to fly. I take off my left boot, a nice Birkenstock, and begin to pummel a very drunk Croat on his brainless noggin. This is very normal with us; we are passionate people ... we live, we love, we fight. Case, as you

Canucks say, closed. No big deal."

I was a little stunned. "But professor, a Croatian woman was taken to hospital after being hit by a flying chair, that just doesn't seem right to me."

"Ah, I know for a fact that was a friendly fire incident. The woman was hit by her husband, another drunk Croat. Classic case of collateral damage. And, as you said, she was a Croat. Casualty of war. No biggie. And by the way what don't you get. You Canadians kill me. No passion, no fire, and all this peace, love and tenderness. You are phonies."

"Phonies?" I said, a little incredulous. "Explain that professor, because you've lost me."

The good professor just laughed. "You are a simpleton or what? Let me break this down for the feeble-minded Canadian reporter. I am saying that you must harbor some political grudge. Surely you have some issues, some people who have tried to separate you from your country. Usurpers, traitors, people like the Croats. People to hate. You have them. I know it. It is part of being citizen."

"Well, hmm, let's see," I said, wracking my brain. "There were the Fenians."

"Aha, there," said Outic. "I knew it! And what did these Fenians do?" asked Dokic warning to his task.

"Well they shot poor old Prime Minister Thomas D'Arcy McGee on the Sparks Street Promenade in 1868," I said.

"Eureka!" screamed Dukit Outic. "I knew it. There, Terrance, is something to grasp onto. Run with this. Find a mantra; wake up in the morning with the words 'I hate the Fenians' burning on your lips. Next time you see one, summon your inner zeal, seize your hate. Yell like a banshee: 'I hate you Fenian!' And then grab your Macbook Air with the hard shell aluminum body and hit that bloody Fenian over the head with it till he screams for mercy. If he doesn't go down, grab a nearby credenza or love seat, and badda-bing, baddam-bam, badda-boom you chuck it at this Fenian with much gusto. And then you must yell at this Fenian miscreant. 'Hah, Fenian, this is for shooting my friend Thomas D'Arcy McGee in April, 1868. Take that you traitor.' You will, I guarantee Terrance, feel immediately and fervently, the power and the passion of the hugged grudge."

I thought and pondered. "Problem, Professor. No Fenians. "Dukit Outic was outraged. "No Fenians? What happened?"

"Well," I said. "I'm not sure, but I think we just evolved and grew into country, and the Irish Catholics and the Fenian brotherhood all came to realize that as Canadians we just might have to learn to put all those old feuds with British colonialism and our Irish past behind if we wanted to flourish as a nation."

"Ah, bull, no nation is that nice," scoffed the Prof. "There must be something. An obnoxious griping entity that you can come to despise and hate with verve and vigor. We all need a foil, a resentment, a target for spite, even you whiney Canucks."

And as he spoke it suddenly hit me like an airborne ottoman.

"Leafs fans, professor!" I shouted. "We all hate leafs fans!"

"Good, good! Hah, I knew it. You know what to do Terrance. Follow the worn footpath of we Serbo-Croats, and find that passion. Grasp a resentment, hug that grudge, sally forth, throw a chair, chuck a bar stool, fire a pound of chicken wings at an obnoxious Maple Leaf's fan.

"And shout at the top of your lungs.

"That is for subjecting all Canadians to your oppressive regime and constant whining. I hate you Leafs' fans!"

I tried it at home. Feels good.

We'll see how it flies at McKecks next Saturday night.■

MNR Reports

Shooting Deer Decoy Proves Costly

A Pefferlaw man has pleaded guilty and was fined a total of \$3,000 for illegal hunting.

Jason Maye, 34, of Pefferlaw, was fined \$1,500 for trespassing to hunt, plus \$1,500 and a one-year hunting suspension for discharging a firearm from a vehicle.

The court heard that on Sunday November 9, 2008, Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers set up a white-tailed deer decoy in Laxton Township, City of Kawartha Lakes. Conservation officers had received public complaints of illegal hunting activity in the area of the decoy set.

During the decoy operation, a vehicle slowed down at the location of the decoy. Maye put his firearm out the window of the truck and fired a single shot at the decoy with a 12-gauge slug. The vehicle proceeded to drive away and was then stopped by conservation officers. A shotgun used to shoot the deer decoy was recovered from the truck.

Justice of the Peace Dianne Ballam heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Lindsay, on January 23, 2009.■

\$2,000 Fine For Illegal Deer Hunting

A Kinmount area man has been fined a total of \$2,000 for charges related to shooting a deer that was standing on the edge of a public road.

Timothy Robinson, 32, pleaded guilty to discharging a firearm in a road right of way and tagging a deer with a deer tag issued to another person. He was fined \$1,000 for each offence.

Court was told that on November 14, 2008, Robinson was driving his all-terrain vehicle south of Minden. As he reached the Ritchie Falls Road, he saw a deer standing on side of the road. Robinson got off his vehicle and fired down the road hitting and later killing the deer.

Court also heard the deer was later tagged with an illegally transferred deer tag.

Justice of the Peace Diane Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Minden, on January 15, 2009.■

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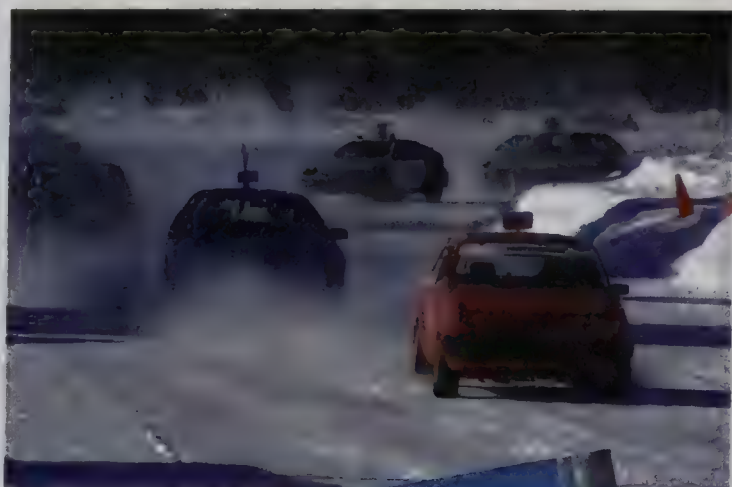
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More Ice Fun... Ice Racing Returns to Minden

The first race of the Minden Kinsmen's 33rd Annual Ice Races took place last weekend under clear, if frigid conditions at the Minden Fairgrounds. The Saturday races saw 100 entrants with the Sunday races close behind with 95 racers. Despite the cold, at least 100 spectators also turned out to enjoy the fast-paced action.

For Tom Prentice, long-time Kinsmen President and avid ice racer, it turned out to be a longer weekend than usual: Tom was involved in a serious crash on the ice and needed some on site and hospital treatment, but was released shortly afterwards.

This is the first of six weekly weekend races in Minden, and is the Kinsmen's major fundraiser. ■



Photos by
Gord Barter



This is the car that Kinsmen President Tom Prentice took out.

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A Generous Donation from Scotiabank Wilberforce Minor Hockey Receives \$1,000 Cheque



The Scotiabank in Wilberforce has stepped up to help out local hockey players.

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, representatives from the bank presented members of The Wilberforce Rockets with a \$1,000 cheque at the Wilberforce Arena. The funds will go towards covering the costs of ice time for both junior and senior players on the team and other operating costs.

In the near future, players on the team will receive Scotiabank crests that will go on their hockey jerseys.

The Wilberforce Rockets includes players ranging in age between six and 15 years old. ■

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Trails and Tours Offers Short Course on Long Course Nordic

Five Brave Souls Ignore the Elements in Pursuit of Lifetime Sport

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

There may be no better way to enjoy a crisp and cold winter day than a quick gliding jaunt through the many and varied Nordic ski trails that commingle midst old growth woods of the Haliburton Highlands.

Glebe Park, Moosewoods, Frost Center Trails, Delta Pinestone Trails, and the open concourse of any frozen lake beckon like Templar's Grail to the Nordic ski set here in the Highlands.

Silent, serene, and Zen-centered, the sport may have been born in the frozen tundra of Lapland, Finland and Norway as a way of hunting migrating bands of reindeer, but it remains a popular pastime and burgeoning leisure pursuit here in Canada, where long winters prompt an investigation of alternative routes to fitness and an enjoyment of our natural and stunningly beautiful wonders.

Last Saturday at the Delta Pinestone Resort, Haliburton Trails and Tours offered a clinic for novices to the sport of XC Skiing.

It was approximately -30 degrees Celsius at 9 am last Saturday morning. The sun was shining and there was minimal wind fluttering through the trees. That did nothing to mitigate the fact that it was damn cold.

Despite the head-numbing, bone-crunching temperature, five brave souls gathered outside the Delta Pinestone Pro Shop with facilitator (instructor) Joleen Thomas smiling and eager to learn.

When it's this cold in cottage country, even the best-intentioned smiles tend to take on the eerie specter of a failed botox treatment, or the hard thin stretch of Cher's surgically enhanced porpoise grin.

No matter, the students were apparently eager as Thomas walked them through the beginner program.

Tegan Moratz, event organizer and Trails and Tours team member said that she was quite pleased with the turnout, adding that the small student number gave Thomas an opportunity for more in-depth, one-on-one training.

Moratz added that the maximum number of students that could be accommodated was nine and the fact that five novices showed on such a cold morning was pretty outstanding. My frozen battery, and shuddered shutter inside my Canon XTI camera vehemently concurred.

The students slipped, poled, touched tuchus to tundra and struggled happily with the nuance of this exhilarating yet fastidious sport, but kept on smiling, a tribute to Thomas's gentle coaching techniques.

Simply put, it ain't quite as easy as it looks.

At the end of every introductory glide, Thomas would stop the student, offer some support and a guided fix. The student would go back up the trail and glide back to Thomas, every new practice run looking markedly better than the previous try.

Thomas said that baby-steps enforce the learning process and repetition of the correct technique at the beginning of the foray into the sport makes this a more enjoyable and fulfilling experience for the novice. And as we all know, a happy novice is one

who will return to the sport.

"We give these clinics to introduce the sport to novices and to get some new blood into the sport," says Thomas who has been facilitating and teaching XC Skiing for the past nine years or so.

She says that she also gives private and semi-private lessons with the Haliburton XC Ski Club.

She explains that the goal of a novice clinic is to give the students a comfort level and some measure of independence on the skis trails. After a novice clinic, like the one on Saturday, a good measure of post-secondary XC education is done by the individual skier, as he or she ventures further onto the trails and becomes more comfortable with the techniques.

"Today we are just trying to make them comfortable, so they can come out and ski independently," smiles Thomas, while taking a lunch break inside the dining room of the Delta Pinestone Lodge.

Thomas spent a good deal of the morning session making sure that her students knew how to



pole properly, to glide with a measure of good stance and balance and also, perhaps most importantly, how to stop. The afternoon session was all about taking those techniques onto the trails that surround the Delta Pinestone Resort.

Amesha Sheth and Bill Sleeman learned about the clinic on the Trails and Tours website and decided to make the trek from Toronto to participate in the one-day clinic.

"My tushy hurts, but I did enjoy dropping into the snow," laughs Sheth, whose self-deprecating take on the morning belied her solid improvement by day's end. Sleeman said he was happy with his progress and both he and Sheth admitted that they would be pursuing the sport in the future as a result of this short course in XC technique.

Doug Woodley has a day job at Curry Motors and said he saw the Trails and Tours promo and decided to investigate.

"I saw the ad in the paper, I've done some other winter sports and decided to give it a try," said Woodley, who added that he did some XC skiing about 20 years ago.

Andrew Legge, another Haliburton resident said he learned a lot in the course of the morning session and was looking forward to the afternoon jaunt on the groomed trails. Of course he also had some extra motivation, being a good friend of event organizer Moratz.

"Well, that had something to do with it," smiled Legge. Moratz says that XC skiing is a perfect lifetime sport for residents of the Haliburton Highlands. It is typically much less expensive than snowmobiling, alpine skiing or snowboarding and she adds that with well over 100 kilometers of groomed trails available, the Highlands trails draw many, many avid skiers from all over the province and beyond. "We're very lucky here, with this many trails in our own backyard," says Moratz.

Moratz says that Trails and Tours next plush woodsy event is slated for March 21. It's called Explore Nature's Gold and will include a snowshoeing amble through a maple-sugar farm.

It's an interpretative tour, which will include a look at tree-tapping and the gathering of sap. The tour participants will then move to the sugar shack for a look at processing and will end the day with a "Tour & Taste" at Moon Shadows Estate Winery to learn how nature's gold is used in creating a variety of unique wines.

More info on winter activity can be garnered from a perusal of the Trails and Tour website located at trailsandtours.com. ■

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Minden River Kings Drop Two and Win Two

Influx of New Players has Minden in Tight Struggle for Fifth Place

Two wins sandwiched between a pair of losses last week have Minden River Kings well-positioned in the hunt for fifth spot in the Greater Metro Junior Hockey League's (GMHL) North Division.

Last Thursday (Jan 22) the Kings dropped an ego punching and morale deflating 14-3 decision to Bradford Rattlers, last year's GMHL Champions.

The Kings rebounded on Friday to defeat the Ville Marie Dragons 3-0 and on Saturday they trimmed Tamworth Cyclones 8-2.

In the second half of their home-at-home tilt against the Rattlers held last Sunday (Jan 25) in Bradford, the Kings made some headway, holding the very strong European dominated team to six goals while coming out on the losing end of a more respectable 6-3 decision.

"We had a much better go against them in that second game," said Kings head coach Brooks Robinson. Robinson added that the 14-3 loss was a lopsided anomaly, but maintained that it served a purpose. "I think we learned something in that game," chuckled Robinson. "Hey, look, Bradford won the championship last year and they've got a really great hockey team there; they have a lot of European players and they are very skilled and very fast and in that first game our guys made the mistake of trying to play their game, and that just wasn't going to work."

The Kings vie best when doing what they do best. And what they do best is check, finish the check, play the body and move the puck via solid outlet. Minden wins by playing good solid positional hockey. They are not groomed for the open ice breakout game.

That point was solidified in the noggin of the Kings players shortly after the Rattlers reached double digits last Thursday. "We can't skate with that team, but the guys thought they could and when you play to another team's strength, you're going to lose," said Robinson.

The Kings were taken to school on Thursday, but to their credit they did their homework and rebounded on Sunday. "We were in that game Sunday right to the very end, which was good to see," said Robinson. "We had a chat after that first game and I think they realized that we have to play our game, because we are not going to win playing their style of game," he added.

Robinson added that the game went right to the wire, the Kings, down 5-3, pulling their goaltender with about a minute-thirty remaining. "We had our chances with the extra skater, but they scored an empty netter with about 30 seconds left," said Robinson. "In the end, sure, it's a loss, but after that 14-3 loss it was good to come back and prove that we can stay with that team when we're playing our game."

The Rattlers are locked in a battle for first place in the GMHL's South Division with South Division leading Innisfil Lakers, who are currently just 2 points ahead of last year's champions. Meanwhile the Kings, thanks in great part to those two victories over Tamworth and Ville Marie are now fully ensconced in a crucial battle for fifth spot in the GMHL's very tough North Division.

The Kings are in sixth spot right now with a 14-19-1 record and 29 points. Brock Bucks are 14-19-2 and hold down fifth spot with 30 points. Working for the Kings right now, the fact that they hold three games in hand over the Bucks. The first six teams make the playoffs and while Minden and Brock are assured of berths, both would like to hold down that fifth spot. Finishing sixth would mean a best-of-five tilt against the South Muskoka Shield who, right now, would have to be classified as the league's best team.

The Shield are sporting a 33-4-1 record, well ahead of the second place Elliot Lake Bobcats who have a 25-6-4 record.

In spite of the two losses, Robinson is optimistic heading into the dry bones of the last quarter of the GMHL schedule. Regular season play wraps up in just three weeks and Minden is seeing some light at the end of a long, long tunnel.

Both Robinson and the majority of the Minden players are now pretty cognizant that the GMHL season is no sprint, but rather a marathon, dappled with pitfalls, boulders and the occasional bump with adversity.

The Kings have seen the resignation of a coach, many futile weeks playing understaffed and a veritable revolving door of departing, returning and incoming new players.

Robinson says that, finally, a nucleus of solid skaters are girding for the final run.

"We have four lines, and six defensemen now and that makes a real big difference," said Robinson. And among that influx of new talent, a number of local players and familiar names, which may serve to infuse some interest from the local community, and maybe a net gain of fans.

Matt Lytle, Matt Eno, and Zach and Jordan Joianu have been added to the roster of late, and all are local commodities and all bring something to the table, says Robinson. "All local players and all are good solid additions," said Robinson.

In fact, Lytle forms one third of the Kings best checking line along with Mike Dagostino and another Highlands' buzz saw Tyler Crego.

"Man that's a good line, they just never quit skating and they don't get scored on," said Robinson. Robinson gave a load of DAP to that fourth line for keeping the Rattlers under wraps for the bulk of the game last Sunday.

The addition of Jeff Beale via the trade route has also proved a boon for the Kings who are now relying on Beale's 1.5 point-per-game addition.

Beale is teamed with Eno and team captain and scoring leader Brett Meyers, the Minnesota Maestro, who is scoring well over two points per game for the Kings this season. And more important, Meyers has worn the 'C' with a great amount of pride.

Another pleasant surprise for Robinson comes in the person of new assistant coach Evan Kernohan. Kernohan is another local guy, and according to Robinson, he is a welcome addition to the club.

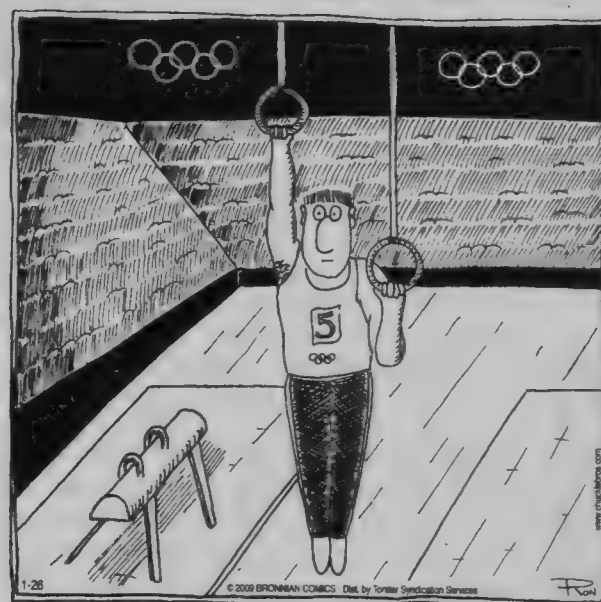
"I'm really impressed with Evan, he's a big knowledge guy, and he's got a great rapport with these young guys," said Robinson.

Another recent addition to the ranks is Ryan Gould, who started the season with the River Kings.

Robinson said he was on the phone every day with Gould just a week prior to the player acquisition deadline in mid-January. The long-distance negotiations paid dividends when Gould decided to return to the fold two weeks ago. Robinson said that Gould is a pretty hefty addition to the club and he added that with the new players and a full roster, the Kings are now well positioned for a playoff run.

"I think fans in Minden will be pleasantly surprised and with the new local players I'm hoping that they'll come out and watch, because this is a team that I think the local fan base can get excited about," said Robinson.

The Kings host the second place Elliot Lake Bobcats this coming Sunday at the SG Nesbitt Barn. It could be a preview of the 5 versus 2 first round playoff series if things continue to gel for the River Kings. ■



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Creatively Caring Paper

Haliburton Homebuilders Tourney, an Injection of Fun Midst the Gloom Organizers of 11th Annual Charity Event Ecstatic with Turnout

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

Area construction companies might be mired in the frozen floes of an economic nose-dive, but last weekend, at the 11th Annual Homebuilders Charity Hockey Tournament, talk gravitated less to crumpled slump and more to the dump, the bump, and dynamic fist-pump.

Hockey's like that. For three days last weekend many Highlands' homebuilders, apprentices, and contractors put blueprints on hold, dropped tools in the bucket, cleaned out the half-ton, and popped pads, sticks and skates on top of chop saws, extension cords and hammers.

Yes, for three days last weekend, area homebuilders proved once again that in Canada hockey is tonic, placebo, and painless cure for what ails.

The Homebuilders Charity Hockey event, held last weekend at Dysart and Wilberforce Arenas, presented some fun-filled yin to Jim 'Frick n' Frack' Flaherty's bleak economic yang.

Tournament organizer, gladhandler, greeter and all-round whirling dervish, Aggie Tose was well pleased with this year's turnout.

"It was a great tournament again this year," said Tose. "Good hockey, 22 teams and four divisions, and everyone is having fun." Tose should know. She was there for the duration, collecting score sheets, posting scores and organizing, organizing and organizing.

On Sunday, Tose was multi-tasking, toddler in tow, searching out some game results for a desultory, camera-totin', and ink-stained member of sport's fifth estate. Tose said that many of the teams involved were local, but added that there is a constant and rising tide of outside teams, testament to the tourney's burgeoning popularity. Build a well-run hockey tourney "and they will come." In droves.

Teams from Bracebridge, London and a lot of players from the GTA were kicked into the mix this year, serving to install a bump to the local tourist-based economy, which does suffer from some post-Christmas doldrums. Teams beat hastily-planned between game retreats to McKecks, or the Foodland, or the Independent, or maybe even (shock and awe) to The Beer Store during the course of the weekend. All in all a pretty nice infusion to our local economic diaspora.

Anyone doubting the surging popularity of hockey at all levels in Canada had only to pop by the Dysart Emporium last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hockey is alive and well in the great frozen north. Four divisions comprising Homebuilders, Over 35, Ladies and Open categories were all vying for bragging rights, waistline and heart-rate maintenance, and the singular pursuit of fun last weekend. "Fun" said Tose is what this tournament is all about.

And beneath it all lies that all-important charity component.

Funds raised in the 11th Annual Hockey Tourney go toward the many programs and charities supported by the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association (HCHBA). The HCHBA also sponsors a charity golf tournament and a yearly Christmas Challenge for charity.

Tose said that one of the more memorable points in the tourney came when the London Homebuilders men's squad lost the services of their only goaltender for their D-Side tilt against Service Master on Saturday evening. Now, by strict definition of tourney rules, players are only allowed to play in one division, but a goalie, is, after all, a goalie; and the equipment (tools of ignorance?) should not be worn except by those denizens of JR Tolkien's nether regions; those humans possessing an innate, inbred and peculiar take on life. Like baseball catchers, goaltenders are born to the Sousa beat of a different drummer.

That considered, Tose said that the rules committee put their heads together and allowed a goaltender from the Ladies Division to play for London. London, with female crease watcher in place, went on to win the D-Side Homebuilder Event, beating Service Master 7-4. Score this one: Gloria Steinham, 1 - Bobby Clarke, 0.

But as with most local divisional tourneys that hammer out on frozen patches all across this country, the best is always reserved for last. To wit: the Open Final.

It was no different last Sunday as the round robin percolated to two finalists in the A-Side championship - a collection of familiar faces - the Minden Mallards and the Misfits. (It was a contest destined make the god's of alliterative prose blush with pride. What mettle might manifest, munificent and mighty in Minden Mallards - Misfits much measured match?)

Grammar whacks aside, the final turned into a dandy contest of speed, goaltending, end-to-end rushes and superb puck control on both sides of center. It was a potsticker of a final, closely played, with just the right amount of hard nose stick, blended with some pretty poetic, dilly-dally dangling and head-man play.

Misfits goaltender Shane Walker and Minden puck stopper Brad Miller both played extremely well after giving up early goals in the first five minutes of the 20-minute straight time first period. The Mallards Karl Oldham and the Misfits Gary Kernohan scored what would be the only two goals in regulation. The score remained tied through the duration of regulation despite a huge number of great opportunities in the course of the two 20 minute periods.

That forced overtime and an appropriate three-on-three 10-minute third and final frame. Three-on-three is where-it's-at in terms of tournament overtime. And the Misfits and Mallards played it like it should be played; end-to-end, full throttle, and mano-a-mano.

About five minutes into the overtime the Misfits' Jason Horsley found himself all alone in front of a frozen Miller and managed to slide the puck by the Mallards netminder and into the back of the net. The 2-1 Misfits victory provided a fitting and exhilarating backdrop to an exciting tourney.

In other A-Side finals G's Unit captured the Homebuilder Division crown with a 7-3 romp over PPHL. In the Ladies A final Whiskey Cox beat Black Aces 2-0 and in the Over 35 A-Side final Spit Monkeys defeated renaissance 4-1.

In the Open B-Side final Mittlickers defeated Ragin Bison 7-3. Solid Burch beat Muskoka HB 7-5 in the Homebuilders B-Side Final. The Chiefs beat Tragically Hick 5-4 in the Over 35, B-Side final and Sugar and Spice defeated Ecclestone Cycle 6-4 in the Ladies B final.

Churko Electric downed the Mighty Moose 5-1 to win the over 35 C championship, while Majestic Pools beat Durham 4-3 in overtime to capture the Homebuilders C-Side final. ■



Home Builder Division A Championship

Rear Left to Right Corey Simms, Spencer Janes, Andrew Burch, Doug Stewart, Simon Slavish, Colin Morrison, Jamie Doan
Front Left to Right Scott Janes, Shawn MacInnes, Andi Donaldson, Joey Sisson, Jamie Johnston, Josh Shaw



Open Division A Championship

Rear Left to Right Corey Casey, Evan Kernohan, Brandon Logan, Darren Gilbert, Kirk Poirier, Jason Horsley, Dave Petch, Justin Walker
Front Left to Right Wayne Kernohan, Shane Walker, Gary Kernohan, Steve Ecclestone, Jeremy Miscio, Kevin Walker, Shawn Casey

From the Haliburton Highlands to the Green Hills of Africa

A Local Boy's Journey to the Far Side of the World

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

If someone had told me a few years ago that by the age of 20 I'd be living in West Africa, 9,000 kilometers from the Haliburton Highlands, I probably wouldn't have believed it. But here I am now, a young lad of 20, doing exactly that. I've been living in the West African nation of Ghana for more than four months now, and it's been unlike anything I've ever experienced.

I graduated from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School four years ago, and became a student at Trent University in Peterborough, majoring in international development and history. International Development is a discipline that seeks to create greater social and economic welfare in impoverished countries and regions. It takes four years of study to earn an honours degree in international development, and at Trent, one has the option of spending their third year studying in Ghana. I've always wanted to live in another country, so I jumped at the opportunity to study abroad. I applied to the Trent in Ghana programme last year, and fortunately, I was accepted. So, in the final days of August, 2008, I left my Gelert home and traveled to the far side of the world.

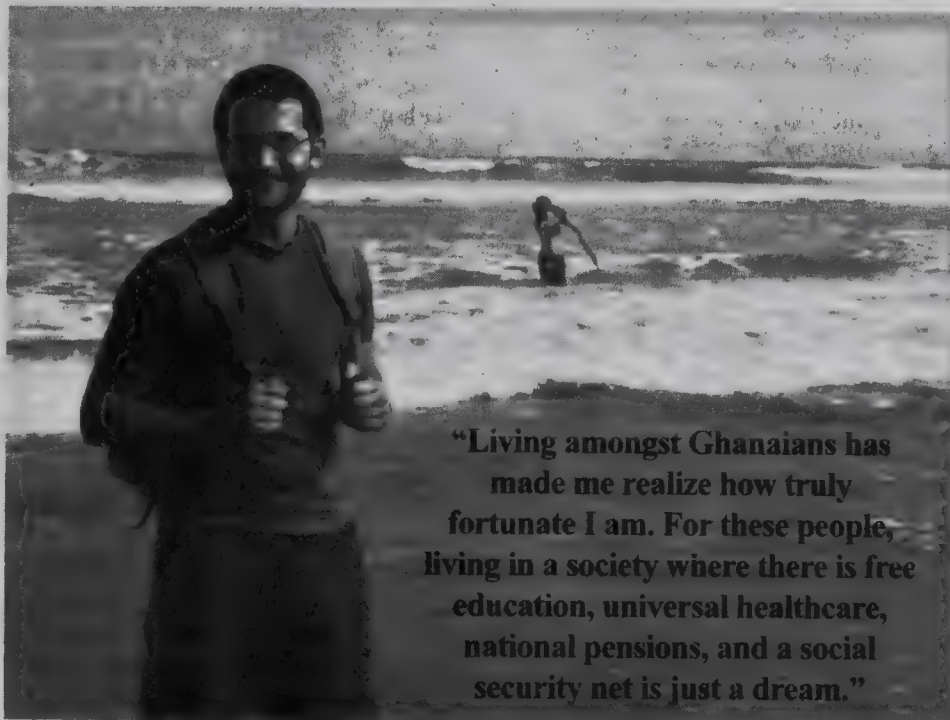
For the last four months I have been studying development at the University of Ghana, in the capital city of Accra. I have been studying alongside Ghanaian students, while being taught by African professors. It has been a very rewarding experience for me, because I'm learning about issues of poverty and social depravity from people that have experienced such things their entire lives. Instead of sitting in a library in Canada reading academic articles on the failed economies of Africa, I'm actually seeing it all around me, and learning about the social hardships firsthand. My professors have also experienced the many failed attempts by western nations to rebuild African economies during the last 50 years. By studying these unsuccessful economic reforms I am learning from the mistakes of the past and helping to ensure that future economic restructuring in Africa will be more successful.

The University of Ghana does not have enough dormitory rooms to house all of its students, so I have had to live off campus. Living in a foreign city of two million people is a bit daunting for a country boy from Gelert, but I've managed to survive by boarding in a house with a Ghanaian family. My landlord and host father is an old blind man who runs a daycare and nursery out of his home. There have been many days when I return from campus to find him sitting in a lawn chair with a long stick across his lap. I always ask him what the stick is for, and he responds with his thick African accent, "Oh, the children were very bad today...very bad. They would not be quiet, so I had to beat them very hard." As you might imagine, there are not the disciplinary problems here that there are in Canadian schools.

Living in Africa has made me realize how relatively easy day to day living is in the Haliburton Highlands. Running water is pretty much nonexistent in Ghana, which means no showers. Each day begins with a very cold bucket of rain water, which is all one gets to bathe in. With little piping infrastructure in the city, one must carry their water everywhere. On most occasions I've been able to collect water from rain barrels around my house, but when these run dry, it's a long walk to the community well, and

an even longer walk back carrying heavy buckets of water. Such trips must be made frequently, for a bucket of water is needed each time you bathe, wash clothes, do dishes, or flush the toilet.

In the Haliburton Highlands, when you need groceries it's usually just a drive to the grocery store. Well, there's no Foodlands, Independents, or IGA's in Ghana. There are only open air markets, which makes shopping an entirely different experience. The market in my neighbourhood is a sprawling expanse of narrow lanes and alleys lined with hundreds of stalls and vendors. It's an extremely loud place, as every vendor insists on yelling the name of their product continuously. There are countless live chickens, goats, snails, and crabs for sale, as well as smoked, foul-smelling fish. This wide assortment of animals gives the market a very



"Living amongst Ghanaians has made me realize how truly fortunate I am. For these people, living in a society where there is free education, universal healthcare, national pensions, and a social security net is just a dream."



'unique' smell, to say the least. Aside from foodstuffs, everything from furniture to jewelry to coffins shaped like airplanes can be purchased in the market. Vendors tend to target me because I'm 'white,' and they assume I have a lot of money. So far, the best sale pitch I've heard from a vendor is, "Please, white man, how can I take your money?" However, I've learned that it's not the vendors that will take my money. It's the crowds of street children that pick more pockets than Fagin's gang ever did.

Regrettably, there is no such thing as a price tag in Ghana, which means that one must haggle for absolutely everything. The seller always starts at an exorbitantly high price, and it is a long struggle to bargain them down to a reasonable fee. This can make grocery shopping a very long and fatiguing process.

Of all the things I miss about home, there are few I miss more than a decent meal. In Ghana, it seems as though food is not perceived as something to be enjoyed or savored. It just something you need to survive. The typical fare over here is rice, bread, plantains, yams, bananas, and cassava. There is meat available, but it is too expensive for most people

to afford regularly. It seems that, as a rule, everything must be ridiculously over cooked and bland tasting. Contrary to the African stereotype, there is a great abundance of food here. It's just not well prepared. You can't really blame Ghanaians for being bad cooks though. It is just one of the many remnants of British colonization. So each night, as my host family places another bowl of mushy rice or plantains in front of me, I dream of having a burger at McKecks, or some bacon and eggs and the Kozy Korner, or some pad Thai noodles as the Wild Orchid. If my time in Ghana has made one thing for certain, it's that I won't ever take Haliburton cuisine or my mother's cooking for granted again.

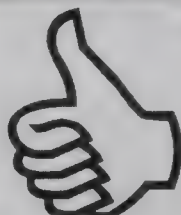
One of the greatest differences between the Haliburton Highlands and Ghana is the climate. Located just south of the vast Sahara desert, and only a few degrees north of the equator, Ghana is a place of unrelenting heat. At night, the temperature is about 25 degrees Celsius, which makes sleeping difficult. One has to sleep under a mosquito net to avoid malaria, which only serves to make things hotter. During the day, the temperature is typically about 30-34 degrees Celsius. When I walk out my front door at 8:00am, the sun is already high in the sky, and the temperature is almost more than I can bear. By the time I walk down my driveway and to the road about 500 metres away, I'm already drenched in sweat. By noonday, merely sitting in the shade is enough to make one sweat. As if the high temperatures were not enough, Accra is also extremely humid, due to its location on the coast between the ocean and the northern rain-forests. Such relentless heat and humidity means that I must drink large quantities of water daily. On one occasion I was so busy with schoolwork that I forgot to drink enough water for a day or two, and with out even realizing it, I became severely dehydrated. This made me sick for several days, and I had to swallow re-hydration salts, and drink litre upon litre of water. Of course, most of the water here is full of parasites and diseases, so I had to drink bottled water imported from Nigeria.

Haliburton County may be the most impoverished county in Ontario, but compared to Ghana, it is a land of milk and honey. Poverty is far more visible here, and I see it every single day. When I drive to campus I see entire family's living in tiny shacks made of corrugated aluminum. I see young, naked, barefooted children scouring garbage heaps in search of food. I see the streets lined with beggars who have been crippled by polio. Everywhere you look, you see abject poverty.

Largely due to poor sanitation infrastructure, diseases like yellow fever, cholera, and malaria run rampant. The majority of Ghanaians can't afford pharmaceuticals, and the national government has just begun to introduce universal healthcare. So the quality of life experienced by the average Ghanaian is relatively low. Despite the social and economic hardship Ghanaians endure, they are an extremely generous, polite, and welcoming people. As I walk down the street each day I am greeted with smiles and friendly chats. Ghanaians love to play and have fun, and they almost always seem to be laughing. They may be impoverished, but this does not prevent them from enjoying life. They are very grateful for what little they do have.

Tyson in Africa cont'd... pg. 24...

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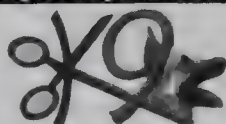
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FOR WEEK OF JAN. 26, 2009

Horoscopes

It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for creating a warm and loving environment between yourself and others.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Seeing the silly side of some really ridiculous situations helps give the Lamb a new perspective on how to handle them. Some important contacts can be made this weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Try to complete your outstanding tasks by midweek. This leaves you free to take advantage of new possibilities -- both professional and personal -- opening up by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) With both your creative side and your energy levels rising this week, you should be able to tackle that too-long-neglected project again. A family member might have important news.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An explanation you requested seems to be more confusing than enlightening. You should insist on clarifications now, rather than deal with problems that might arise later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your energy levels might be ebbing a bit. But that's no excuse for taking catnaps when you could be working on those unfinished tasks. There'll be time to curl up and relax by week's end.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to get those ideas out of your head and into a readable format if you hope to have them turned into something doable. A good friend is ready with worthwhile advice.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Careful -- you might be stepping into dangerous territory if you decide to "exaggerate" the facts too much. Remember: The truth speaks for itself and needs no embellishment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Although your workplace successes have earned you many admirers, there are some colleagues who are not among them. Be careful how you proceed with your new project.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might have to go into great detail to explain why you're currently reluctant to make changes to an already prepared plan. Be sure you have all the facts to back yourself up.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Travel plans might still be uncertain. But instead of getting upset about the delay, open yourself up to other possibilities, and begin checking out some alternative destinations.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Changing conditions might require you to alter some of your plans. While you might be agreeable to this, be prepared with explanations for those who do not want changes made.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Although you might have to deal with some detractors who aren't too kind in their critiques, you gain points when you're willing to stand up and defend your work.



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: From the time when I was a teen, whenever a romance of mine ended, my mother would continue having her own relationship with the ex, regardless of how I felt about it.

Over the years she has attended my ex-husband's wedding, still visits with my former high school boyfriend, contacts my sister's ex-boyfriend -- the list goes on and on. Not surprisingly, this issue has generated some heated exchanges.

Now my adult daughter is experiencing the same thing. She recently ended a three-year relationship, and guess where Mother ended up? She drove 20 miles to visit him in his store, although there are plenty of other stores she could have gone to nearby.

I have long felt that I didn't matter much to her since my exes were so important to her. But seeing the pain this has brought to my daughter makes me furious all over again. Should we just never introduce her to anyone in our lives until the wedding? -- **SICK OF THE EX-FACTOR**

DEAR SICK OF THE EX-FACTOR: You're within your rights to do that. However, I find it odd that not only does your mother have such a hard time letting go of these men, but also that all of them seem to have a hard time letting go of her. I could see this happening once -- but that it's happening with all of them seems peculiar.

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DEAR ABBY: I am an obese woman who had the lap band procedure done three months ago. I am now able to eat only three or four ounces of food at a time, and I am starting to show some major weight loss.

What do I say to people with whom I go out to eat when they think I am being finicky or snobbish for not eating my entire meal? I have gotten some pretty weird stares, and one of my co-workers believes I have an eating disorder.

Abby, I would prefer not to come out and say that I have had weight-loss surgery, but I don't want people worried about me either. Any suggestions? -- **MINI-ME IN TEXAS**

DEAR MINI-YOU: So many people in this country have serious weight problems, I see no reason why you shouldn't be frank about what you decided to do about yours. It's not shameful, and it should not be a guilty secret. People who know you well will find out eventually.

However, if you are determined not to reveal that you had the surgery, when you eat out in restaurants, order only an appetizer. That way less food will remain on your plate.

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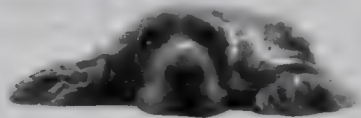
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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What's Up Doc?

By Carol Sanio, DVM
Minden Animal Hospital



Pain Hurts:

"I have not heard any crying, no whining, so it can't hurt"

This is a phrase that veterinarians hear quite often from pet owners. A lot of people think that dogs and cats do not feel pain because they do not complain. Personally, I know some people with a little pain that complain a lot and others with a lot of pain that rarely complain. And one thing is certain, animals do not limp for no reason.

Pain hurts a dog just as much as it does a person. The falling tree in the forest still makes a loud noise even if no one is there to hear it. It is still illegal to drive while under the influence, even if no one catches you. Pain hurts even if you don't let anyone know. When your dog is cut (surgical procedures or trauma), it hurts. When your dog has arthritis (inflammation in a joint), it hurts. When their skin is red and oozing from scratching, it hurts. Pain hurts no matter the cause, or if it is human or animal. There is not only the pain from inflammation, trauma, a disease etc, but there is also anxiety associated with all painful conditions.

There are two different types of pain as well, physiologic pain and pathologic pain. They are quite different.

Pathologic pain implies damage to the tissue that pre-exists and has ongoing discomfort. Whereas physiologic pain is a "warning pain" meant to keep animals safe. Acute pathologic pain is associated with surgical procedures or trauma, but is also associated with disease processes. Words that end in an "itis" as the suffix means inflammation, which would be an ongoing or pre-existent inflammation such as in pancreatitis, cystitis (bladder inflammation), and arthritis (joint inflammation).

There is a hypersensitivity associated with the pre existing inflammation, making a surgical procedure in animals with this an even more painful procedure. (e.g. surgery for a torn cruciate ligament, bladder stone, inflamed tumour etc) The hypersensitivity results in altered nervous system function both peripherally (at the inflamed site) and centrally (at the pain receptors in the brain). Now is when this topic gets complicated as the pain receptors and mediators produced by damaged cells are many and complicated, a bit much for this article. The inflammatory cells the body sends out to help the body heal, actually cause much of the pain, and the vaso-dilation (increased blood supply to the traumatized area) causes the redness and heat and contributes to the sensitizing process. Animals with pre existing inflammation or pain that have surgery require more and different pain medication to control it and it must be given before more pain is inflicted or the pain will be very difficult to control. The body does not heal well in the presence of pain.

Animals tend to hide pain. If you broke your leg, the last thing you would do is to sit on the break or lay on that side. You would be sure nothing touched the painful parts, perhaps put it up on a pillow, sit and take it easy. Dogs with broken legs will hide it, lay on it, and even run on it from the scene of an accident. It is a dog eat dog world and if you show weakness, you are done in.

Pain hurts. I tend to be repeating myself but I am always surprised at the number of people that tell me that animals do not hurt.

Pathologic and physiologic pain is very real in all animals.

There is not one pain medication that can help reduce the pain either. Not all pain is made equal and not all pain is relieved by an anti-inflammatory. We have so many pain medications available for animals now. Not all are licensed for animals but many are commonly used today. Pain medication given before surgery stops the wind up of pain and the painful procedure is better tolerated. For ongoing pain such as arthritis, it is much better to use more than one pain medication. The multi modal method is much more effective. Sometimes it means using some nutraceuticals for anti inflammation and a central acting pain receptor medication like an opioid. Every animal and every situation is different therefore, requiring different treatments for pain relief. Relieving pain, helps healing no matter what the disease, trauma or event. Long term pain medication in our animals that live to a ripe old age may be a necessity as many have long term chronic pain. ■

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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ACROSS

- 1 Kite or coot
5 Chihuahua snack
9 "Goodbye, Columbus" author
13 Egyptian Nobelist
18 Sore
19 Addis —
21 Merrill melody
22 Menander's marketplace
23 6' actress
25 6' comedian
27 Cook clams
28 Trickle
30 Clean-air org.
31 Cartoon cry
32 Wool gatherer?
34 Not — many words
37 "Animal Farm" author
40 6' actor
44 Garfield's pal
45 Tie the knot
46 38 Down, for one
47 — impasse
49 Sour sort
53 Swallow up
56 Undergoes
59 Make a pile?
60 Pool person

DOWN

- 61 Puzzling problem
62 Scarlett's sweetheart
64 Actress Hagen
65 Potter's need
67 Browning's bedtime?
68 Diva Marton
69 Young or King
70 6' designer
73 6' author
76 Art deco figure
77 Marsh
78 Parenthesis shape
79 Melodious McEntire
80 Deli loaf
81 Robert of "The Citadel"
83 Feline, familiarly
85 Force
89 '66 Michael Caine movie
91 Supervise
93 Take for granted
94 Attack
95 They may get cold
96 Ring out
98 Fix a fight
99 And others
101 6' singer

106 Paraguayan title

- 108 Mediocre
109 When pigs whistle, to Tennyson
110 Mongrel
111 Address abbr.
113 Actress Hedren
116 Gettysburg commander
120 6' trumpeter
125 6' anthropologist
127 Doll up
128 Ireland
129 County in
128 Across
130 Scorch
131 Pass on
132 Crowd-burst?
133 Part of a threat
134 Connecticut campus

9 Scott's "The — Quartet"

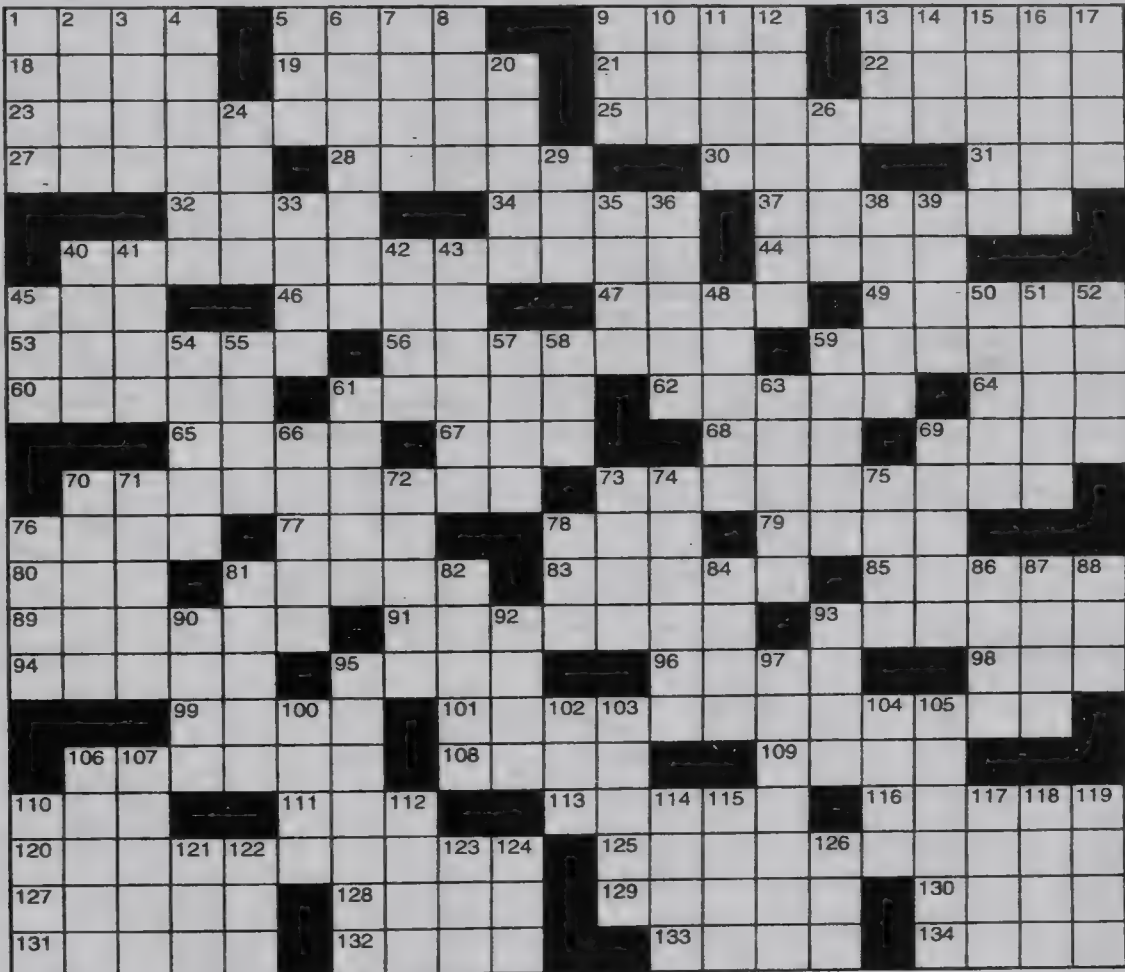
- 10 Mispickel, e.g.
11 Become winded
12 Queequeg's weapon
13 Mr. Mineo
14 Season firewood
15 Peg
16 Shake-spearean sprite
17 Chore
20 Clear jelly
24 Love, to Livy
26 Grounds
29 — -Cat (winter transport)
33 Relief initials?
35 Constellation component
36 Furry fisherman
38 Cowes' locale
39 First name in architecture
40 Fellow
41 Brink
42 Role for Liz
43 Has a hunch
45 Craven or Unsel

48 Peter of Peter and Gordon

- 50 It's down in the mouth
51 Copper or cobalt
52 Mastermind
54 Quitter's cry
55 Vegetate
57 "Disco Duck" singer
58 Keatsian crock
59 Barrel part
61 Tower
63 Each's partner
66 Head monk
69 See 70
70 With 69 Down, "Heaven"
71 Stuff
72 Dumbstruck
73 "True —" ('69 film)
74 Arm-y types?
75 Wading bird
76 Therefore
78 Canine grp.
81 "Same here!"
82 Lock
84 "Lemon —" ('65 hit)
86 Immaculate

87 Kuwaiti kingpin

- 88 Turkey serving
90 "I've — had!"
92 Conductor Klemperer
93 — vera
95 Roaring Twenties figure
97 Canvas shades
100 Inland sea
102 Superlative suffix
103 Nullifies
104 "Nautilus" captain
105 Formal
106 Kid stuff?
107 Comic Leon
110 Canterbury cleaner
112 Austin or Copley
114 Velvet feature
115 Bucket
117 On the briny
118 Distribute the deck
119 Rochester's missus
121 It may be strapless
122 Whichever
123 Carnival site
124 Big bang letters
126 Adversary



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Tyson in Africa

... from pg. 21

Living amongst Ghanaians has made me realize how truly fortunate I am. For Ghanaians, living in a society where there is free education, universal healthcare, national pensions, and a social security net is just a dream. Most Canadians, on the other hand, cannot even remember a time when such things did not exist. I most certainly won't take such amenities for granted when I return to Canada.

I won't be returning to Canada for a while though, because I will be remaining in Ghana for the rest of the academic year. I hope to return to the Haliburton Highlands, and the County Voice, in the spring. Until then, I will continue to live under the big hot sun of Africa, and enjoy this opportunity of a lifetime. ■



Public Input

Trillium Lakelands District School Board is doing a program and accommodation review of Cardiff Elementary School and Wilberforce Elementary School due to declining enrolment.

There is a Committee called the "PARC" (which stands for Program and Accommodation Review Committee). Members of the PARC would like to invite you to give your input.

There will be three (3) remaining public input meetings during the 2008-2009 school year.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009	6 p.m.	Wilberforce Elementary School
Wednesday, April 1, 2009	6 p.m.	Cardiff Elementary School
Wednesday, May 20, 2009	6 p.m.	Wilberforce Elementary School

Individuals or groups wishing to speak at a public input meeting need to fill out an Input Form and send it to one of the schools or to the school board. The form is found on the TLDSB website www.tldsb.on.ca or at Cardiff or Wilberforce Elementary Schools.

1. Presentation by an individual

Individuals may present to the PARC at one of the public input meetings listed above and are given up to 5 minutes to speak. Please bring with you a written summary of your presentation for the PARC.

2. Presentation by a group

One person representing a group or organization may speak for up to 10 minutes at one of the public input meetings listed above. Please bring with you a written summary of your presentation for the PARC.

3. Written Submissions

Individuals and organizations are welcome to submit input to the PARC in writing at any time. Input forms are available on the Board website and at each of the schools.

4. Question Period There will be an opportunity at the end of each public input meeting for questions. Members of the public will be invited to ask questions of the PARC.

For more information please contact:

Susan Johnson in the Director's Office at 1-888-526-5552 ext 22104.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memory

MISCIO

In memory of a dear Mother-In-Law and Grandmother. Who passed away January 27, 1993.



*Just a memory fond,
but true keeping her
in our hearts.*

Sadly missed by
Clara & Families

Death Notices

ALAN LESLIE ROBERTSON STRATH



Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, and dear friend of many, lost his battle with cancer on January 23rd, 2009, in his 73rd year.

Alan is survived by his wife of fifty three years, Sandra (Sunny), his children Deborah, Kimberly (Gerald), Douglas, Leslie, Steven and Scott, his brother Derek (Sharon), nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren, four nieces and three nephews. He was predeceased by his parents John Hugh and Eleanor Blair, as well as his sister, Eleanor Anne.

Alan and Sunny lived most of their married life in Milton, Ont., where Alan worked at Rockwell International. Upon retirement, they moved to their lakefront home near Haliburton, Ont., where Alan spent much of his time pursuing his passions for golf, mastering his computer and captaining his old pontoon boat around the lake to visit friends.

Alan was cremated in Toronto, and his family will hold a memorial service at a later date.

The family wishes to express its gratitude to Sunnybrook's Dr. R. Nam and his oncology team, the doctors, nurses and staff at Sunnybrook and Haliburton Hospitals, as well the members of Paramed, Access Centre and Community Care Haliburton, The Canadian Cancer Society all for their thoughtful care and compassion during Alan's illness. A special thanks to Lori Watkins-Charlton, Gerald Booth, and Roberta Southcott Cargill for their unwavering support, hard work and kindness during this difficult time.

Alan will be sadly missed by his family (including Oscar & Felix), and his many friends.



Ronald Johnson (Resident of Minden, Ontario)



Peacefully at Extendicare-Haliburton on Monday evening, January 19, 2009 in his 81st year. Beloved husband and best friend of Judy Johnson (nee Barnes) of Minden. Sadly missed by his daughter Jill of Barrie, his son Lance of B.C. and their mother Evelynne. Dear brother of Vern (Gwen) of Ajax. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Amy (Michel), Kevin (Laura), Candy (Scott) and Cayton and his great grandchildren Ella, Jasmine, Quinton and Alexia. Also remembered by his mother-in-law Dorothy, his sister-in-law Linda, and his brothers-in-law Donald & Ronald.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends may visit with the family at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME on Saturday morning, January 31, 2009 from 10 o'clock until time of the Memorial Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

County Voice *Easy to Read* Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds is every Monday at noon

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For Rent

FOR RENT - 3-bedroom house on lake, 10 minute drive to Haliburton. \$900.00 + utilities. Call 457-2750 for more details. (B0209-0069)

FOR RENT - 1 Bedroom apartment with screened porch and deck; walk to schools, hospital downtown. \$800 per month includes heat, hydro, satellite; available immediately; call 455-9878 after 5 pm. (D0109-0038)

FOR RENT - Norland area 2 bedroom, fully renovated home located on 50 acres. \$850.00 a month + utilities. Available immediately. Call (705) 454-1239 (A0209-0032)

FOR RENT - House for rent in town of Minden. 3 minute walk from main street. Lovely well appointed 2 bedroom home. Large livingroom with fireplace, large deck off livingroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, hardwood floors/carpet throughout. Fridge and stove included. No smoking. \$850.00 + utilities. First and last & references required. Call 286-6167 (A0209-0012)

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom "furnished" apartment for rent in Haliburton Available now until fall. \$650.00 per month + utilities. 3 kms of town just past the Independent. References required. Ask for Ray 705-457-1402 days. (E1209-0013)

FOR RENT: Large 4-Bedroom home in Haliburton overlooking lake. Available February 1. \$1350/mth. Appliances included. Non-smokers, no pets. Call 457-1214 (D0109-0014)

FOR RENT: In town - Walk to amenities. Renovated and bright 2-bedroom apartment with garage. Those who are NON-SMOKING and have NO PETS are welcome to apply. HEAT INCLUDED! \$925 + hydro. Call 457-9108 and leave message. (D0109-0015)

Storage Rentals

SELF STORAGE UNITS - 24 hour access, 260 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton. Call (705) 457-9732 (C0209-0033)

For Sale

FOR SALE - Cut, split and delivered. Place your firewood ordered now. Call Darren 754-9988 (D0209-0040)

FOR SALE - EVERYTHING MUST GO! - Cherry wood Crib - mattress included, mint condition \$400.00. Baby Swing - blue & beige in colour \$30.00. Children's Dora pink toddler bed (mattress not included) \$70.00. Baby bassinet - green & beige in colour (used for only 7 months) \$70.00. Graco high-chair \$70.00. Please contact Carrie or Ryan (705) 754-3625 (E1209-0017)

FOR SALE - Automotive, Snowmobile, ATV, Marine Parts & Accessories. Complete line of Hunting, Archery, Fishing tackle, Paintball, Soft Air Guns & Accessories, and Live Bait & Licensing. The Wild Outdoors formerly CC Enterprises. 163 Highland Street, Haliburton (705) 457-5334 Open 7 days a week. (D0609-0018)

FOR SALE - NEW COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEMS. 30 Years of experience in Minden and Haliburton area. We take care of all paperwork and permits. Fully licenced, health unit inspected. Call for a free estimate, Brent Colman Trucking and Escavating at 705-286-3952 or 1-800-357-8711 (E1209-0019)

Vehicles For Sale

1975 POLARIS 250 SS WUTG TWUB CARBS. Also 1982 340 Everest. Both running last year. Also a 340 T&T Ski-doo and 2 Olympic Ski-doo's with plastic hoods. Also a spare 640 electric start engine and a 29*9 twin Kohlar engine. Also a new 121"x15" studded snowmobile track. Sells altogether for \$1200.00 Call 705-286-1939 (D0109-0036)

97 ARCTIC CAT ZRT-600: Excellent shape, no rips or tears, runs perfect. Asking \$1900. Call Steve at 754-2145 or (705) 328-0580 (D0109-0039)

1999 DODGE CARAVAN - New snow tires, good summer tires, needs transmission work. As is \$650 o.b.o. Call 457-1013 & leave message. (A0209-0031)

1984 GMC 3/4 TON PICKUP WITH PLOW - Flat deck, 8 inch Myers snowplow, 6-way blade. Good condition needs little to certify. Asking \$4000.00. Call James Reynolds after 6 pm. 455-9186 (A0209-0030)

1994 GRAND AM - Great parts car. AS IS \$375.00 Call Ryan or Carrie (705) 754-3625 (E1209-0021)

FOR SALE - 8 foot Meyers commercial snow plow, quick connect system 4 yrs old, used for private use only, is in really good shape and very well maintained. came off of a Ford F250 but can be installed on any vehicle. \$3000 call 705-754-9030 (A0209-0034)

For Sale

FOR SALE - ARE Tonneau Cover for short box GMC pickup truck \$300.00. Call Ryan or Carrie (705) 754-3625 (E1209-0022)

Wanted

WANTED - Old or antique used furniture, one piece or whole estates bought plus clean-up of everything also cars, trucks, boats trailers if the price is right I will make you a deal on anything call Richard in Tory Hill at 448-3920. Clean up of scrap cars or metal as well. (E1209-0023)

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HOMEDAYCARESERVICES PROVIDED - Daycare available in town of Minden. Over 20 years experience. Warm, loving, attentive care. Current CPR & First Aid. Small child to caregiver ratio. Specializing in infant and toddler care. Only 2 full time spaces available. Call 286-1668 (D0209-0024)

FROZEN PIPES? : Water, septic, ice buildup, culverts. Call 286-1995 (B0209-0025)

FTA SATELLITE SYSTEMS 1000's of channels, no program fees, all satellite system installs. 306-0023 (local call) (E1209-0027)

ODD job jack-your local handyman 448-9965 For any and all odd jobs. What can we do for you? Email oddjobjack@yahoo.ca (E1209-0028)

Employment Ops

Willow Beach Cottages is seeking a student to work Sunday afternoon to support a variety of cottage maintenance activities. Will provide training. Please call 457-1110. (A0209-0036)

Notices

TAKE NOTICE: That the Annual General Meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Performing Arts Society will take place on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion located in the high school. Memberships will be available at the door. For further information, contact the Theatre Manager, 457-1235 (A0209-0037)

Classifieds...
457-5001

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class@countyvoice.ca

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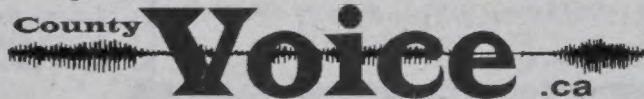
You are organized and have experience working in an office setting on numerous software programs including Microsoft word, email, excel and simply accounting.

If you are an independent thinker with excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to work autonomously, please submit a covering letter and resume by January 31, 2009 to:

Haliburton County Development Corporation
PO Box 210, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit #4
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Phone (705) 457-3555 Fax (705) 457-3398
e-mail: ptallman@haliburtoncdc.ca

Please note this is a part time position working 22.5 hours per week, for a 4 month period subject to renewal.

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Full time position requires person to make weekly deliveries of newspapers throughout the county (involves a lot of heavy lifting). Position also includes other in-house duties as required. Must have good phone manners, some computer skills, present self well with clean and neat appearance as position requires dealing with the public. Must be over 25 yrs of age with clean driving record. Vehicle supplied by company. Hourly wage to be discussed.
Call 705-457-5001 to arrange an interview.

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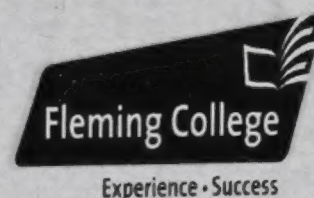
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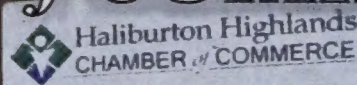


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CHAMBER NEWS - February Issue

Seminars & Workshops

Adventure Tourism Stakeholders Meeting

On Wednesday, February 11th at 5:30pm (for approx. 1hr), any Tourism providers or related are invited a session on "The roles we all play in the development of tourism in Haliburton County as a destinations for all visitors." Keynote speaker "Craig Bowker-Owner of Ski-Mazing Watersports School."

Fundamentals Accounting & Government Requirements for Businesses
Audrey Beck's workshop for businesses education in accounting topics that include: Types of business set ups, RST, GST, Payroll, WSIB and Accounting Requirements. Tues, March 3 from 1-4pm at the Chamber Office
For further information and to RSVP, please call 286-1760

Enhanced Retirement & Tax Strategies on Thurs. Feb. 19 from 5:30 to 7pm. At the BMO, please rsvp to 705-457-1587.

Chamber AM

Wow, a great breakfast, great price & great company to start our day out right! We welcome all Chamber Members out for a networking breakfast at the Dominion Hotel in Minden from 7am-8:30am on Thursday, February 5th. Just drop by for a \$4 breakfast.

Member Spotlight

Welcome to the following New Members:

The Minden River Cone

Natalie & David own a landmark in downtown Minden, we are the giant Ice Cream Cone on the river and just steps away to the "River Walk". David & Natalie also are Sales Representative for Health & Wellness Glimpse Skin Care and Xango Juice, these amazing products...you just got to try. Phone: 705-489-2642 Email: info@therivercone.com Website: www.therivercone.com

L. Clarke Management & Consulting

Larry comes to the community with a knowledge of business services to reduce expenses; identify and develop solutions to facilitate planning and charge regarding new initiatives. Expense Management & Reduction for Small Businesses seminar coming in April. Consultation Free! Phone: 705-455-9236 Email: larrymclarke@sympatico.ca

Membership has it's advantages! Call today to join our ever-growing membership.

Upcoming Events

**The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce
Business and Community Achievement Awards**
Saturday, March 21st
at the Delta Pinestone Resort

Fantastic New Menu
Exciting Entertainment: Haliburton Idol ~ Kelsea Crowe

Awards to be Presented

Business Achievement Awards: Business of the Year, Not-for-Profit Business of the Year, Customer Service of the Year and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Community Achievement Awards: Highlander of the Year, Youth of the Year and "Warden" Award of the Year (sponsored by County of Haliburton)

News Flash - Sponsors for the Event!!!

~Platinum Sponsorship-Bank of Montreal, County Commercial Printers, The Echo & Minden Times
~Award Sponsorship-Lakeview Motel (sponsoring Student Award)
~Gold Sponsorship- Abeck Accounting - Bell Alliant
~Silver Sponsorship-HCDC - Rexall Drugstore
Room still available, call today to participate in this event.

LET THE NOMINATIONS BEGIN....

call or stop by our office to receive a copy of the Nomination Form to select the Business of your choice to be nominated this year. Anyone can Nominate any Business in the Community. All nominations must be in by Friday, February 27, 2009.

The Chamber Business Center

Office Space Available for any Haliburton County Resident. Running a small business and require a professional space to do it? The Chamber Office Building has space at competitive pricing for short term or long term rentals.

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Maria Micallef - Administrative Coordinator
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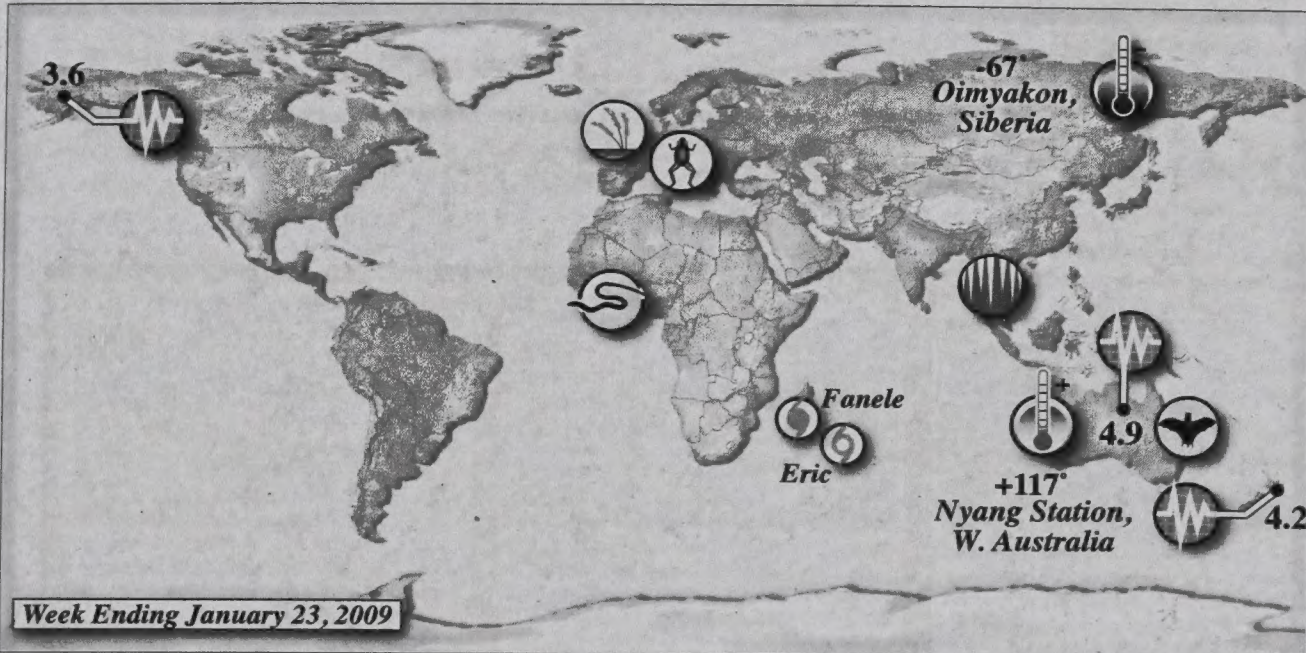
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Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newmar



Reflective Cooling

Growing more reflective crops would help combat the predicted rise in temperatures due to greenhouse gasses this century, according to a new study by British researchers. Andy Ridgewell and colleagues at the University of Bristol say that growing crops already cools the planet because many cultivated plants reflect more sunlight into space than natural vegetation. Using a global climate model, they found that by being more selective in which crops to grow, and genetically altering some to reflect more light, summertime temperatures could be kept down by 2 degrees Fahrenheit across much of the American Heartland and the middle latitudes of Eurasia. The team stressed that unlike growing biofuels, cultivating more reflective plants could be achieved without disrupting food production, either in terms of yield or the types of crops grown.

Thai Chill

The coldest wintertime conditions to strike normally temperate Thailand in 10 years have killed some of the country's wildlife and human population unaccustomed to such a chill. Officials say that at least two people have died of exposure in the north of the tropical country, where the mercury in some neighborhoods dipped to only 43 degrees Fahrenheit. The *Bangkok Post* reports that Lampang's Elephant Hospital was caring for eight ailing pachyderms that fell ill due to the cold temperatures. In the southern province of Phattalung, wild macaques migrated from the mountains to around the geothermal pools and geysers at Kao Chia Son to escape the cold snap. Snake farmers in some areas of Thailand say the reptiles have begun to die from exposure.

Bats Ravage Crops

Swarms of Australian fruit bats, known as flying foxes, have caused more than \$4 million in damage to the country's Granite Belt crops so far this year, according to agricultural officials. Some growers say they haven't seen such large numbers of the flying foxes for about 20 years. The Queensland Farmers Federation says up to half of the plums, peaches and nectarines were destroyed by the pests, and the region's \$20 million apple crop was in jeopardy. The group blasted the government for not allowing farmers to shoot the bats, as well as not compensating them for damages. A ban on shooting the flying mammals was imposed last September after an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee declared the practice was inhumane, since wounded bats were often left to die a slow and painful death. Growers are urging the government to help them purchase nets to protect their crops from the flying pests.

Crawling Invasion

The West African nation of Liberia declared a state of emergency as hordes of army worms attacked crops in a leading agricultural area. The infestation has become so acute that some residents report the worm-like caterpillars were consuming all vegetation in their path, even invading homes in search of food. Agriculture Minister Christopher Toe told reporters that the army worms were also polluting fresh water sources with their excrement in Bong County's Zota district, as well as just across the border in neighboring Guinea. Army worms are one of the world's most destructive pests. Their name comes from the way they move as an army on to the next available food source.

Tropical Cyclones

Madagascar was drenched on two fronts as tropical cyclones Eric and Fanel swirled into the island's eastern and western coasts respectively. Eric struck first, with locally heavy rain and storm-force winds that killed one person and left 2,600 others homeless in the Fenerive-Es region. Category 3 Cyclone Fanel caused widespread flooding and significant damage from its 130-mph winds to parts of Toliara province, on the island's western coast.

Earthquakes

Earth movements were felt in Australia's Northern Territory, New Zealand's Hawke's Bay and around Alaska's Denali National Park.

Gastronomic Extinction

Some species of frog could be on their last leg because of a growing demand for the amphibians by gourmets around the world, researchers warn. "Frog legs are on the menu at school cafeterias in Europe, market stalls and dinette restaurants throughout the world," said University of Adelaide ecologist Corey Bradshaw. He warns that the annual consumption of between 20 million and 1 billion frogs may be resulting in an over-exploitation similar to that causing the collapse of fisheries around the world. The professor said there is now a year-round demand for sautéed frog legs, compared to it previously being considered a seasonal dish. He writes in *Conservation Biology* that frogs play a vital role in almost all ecosystems in part because they eat insects.

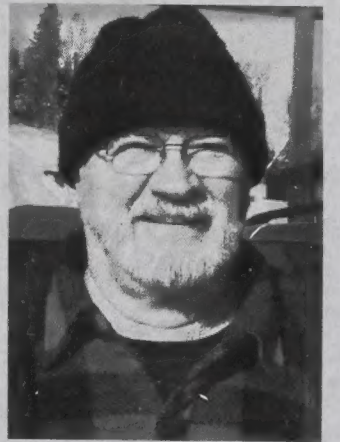
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Have Your Say...
VOX POP

We asked people in Haliburton, "What's your opinion of the health services available in the County?"



Doris LaPorte, West Guilford – "As far as I'm concerned it's really, really good. Whenever I've had to go to the doctor or hospital they've looked after me. I deal with the Haliburton Hospital, which is also where my daughter works as a nurse."



Michael Brogden, Haliburton – "The health situation isn't bad right now. But one service I'd like to see implemented here is access to cancer treatment equipment. Whenever I've had to go to the emergency wing, get blood work done or get medicine, I've never had a problem."



Ruby Parcells, Minden – "I have no qualms about it. I moved up here six years ago and I've been looked after well. I'm impressed. When I had to have therapy they took care of me and when I had to have my eyes checked I got an appointment right away."



Sheila Rowell, Eagle Lake – "I think we have it pretty good here, especially because we have new facilities. One thing that would be nice to have more of would be doctors. All things considered, I'm pleased with how it is. I think if I was in the city I'd have to wait longer and here you get to know the hospital staff, which is nice."

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MOOSE FM
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The Local Experts™

If you build it.....



Affordable home locations on the Soyers Lake Road, close to golfing and Haliburton Village! Vary in size from 3.6 acres to 6.1 acres. Prices from \$29,900. to \$39,000.

Greg Stamp 457-2128

Welcome Home! \$1,150,000



Fabulous level lot, sand shoreline, sunset exposure, stunning 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with fireplace, gourmet kitchen and 2 storey, triple car garage.

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Exceptional Acreage \$289,000



10.9 acres with mature hardwood forest, year round access, hydro and phone to property. Great view of White Lake and access via 66 foot road allowance.

Erin Nicholls 457-2128

Forget the Stairs! \$539,000



Level lot offers lots of play area, lots of decks for sunning and entertaining, 4 bedrooms & 3 baths mean room for the gang.

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Excellent Hwy 35 Location



8800sq ft office, 2 lrg shops. Timberframe construction, outstanding exp., multi purpose property including contractors mall.

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138

Ski Chalet \$449,000



Ski in and out of this stunning new 3 BR, 3 Bath chalet at Sir Sam's Ski Hill. Full finished bsmt & w/o. Large wrap around decks. Spectacular view of Eagle Lake.

Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

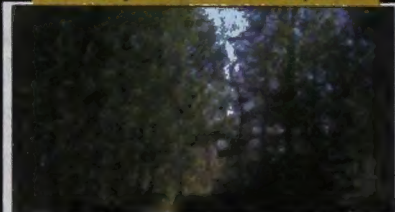
A Pleasure To Show - \$159,000



Put your feet up & enjoy the warmth, comfort & spaciousness of this wonderfully, private family home. Ideal in-town location.

Deborah Deremo & Andrea Wilson 457-2128

Build your dream home 39,900



Private well treed 2.28 acre lot located between Minden & Haliburton. Driveway in, building lot cleared.

Kristin Withey 286-2138

One of A Kind! \$699,000



5 BR, 5 bath 4000 sq. ft. cedar home. Former B&B, Triple gar. Studio & wkshp. Docking on Kashag. chain. Open concept, hardwood, impressive kit, stone FP.

John Hincks 286-2138

Bring all offers!



Seller is relocating and is open to all offers. Fully equipped turn key restaurant, great location at a great price!

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

2-Lake Chain \$339,900



Great 4-season cottage on Miskwabi Lake. Fantastic full-length lake view, 103' clean shoreline w/ deep water, W/O bsmt, furnace, winter water system. Yr. rd mun. road.

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

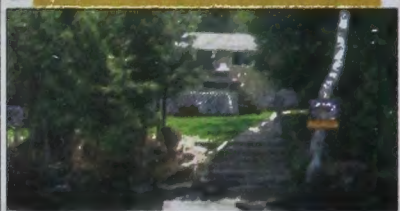
Cute as a Button \$245,000



Vintage 3 BR cottage, 720 sq ft, airtight woodstove, perfect flat lot with flat rock & sand beach shoreline. On mun. road located in a quiet dead end bay.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

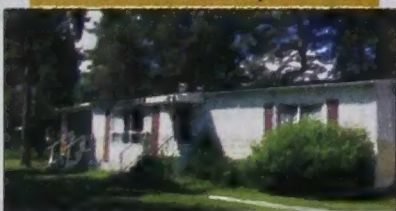
Kennisis View & Sunsets \$499,000



5 BR multi-unit property. Enjoy the lake view & sunsets. Pine throughout, skylights, 2 baths & heated garage/workshop.

Mark Dennys 457-2128

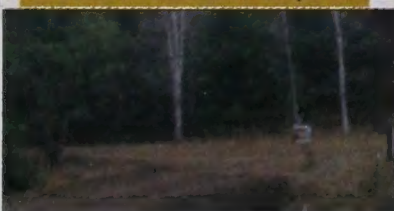
Hunter Creek \$86,900



Well cared for home. Many upgrades. Adult only community 2 min from Minden. Small maint fee covers snow removal, garbage p/u, and more.

Dagmar Boettcher- 286-2138

Serviced Minden Lot! \$34,900



Wonderful Minden lot north on Bobcaygeon Rd. past the schools. Sewers, water, hydro available with service entrance already in. Build your dream home.

Janice Brookes 457-2128

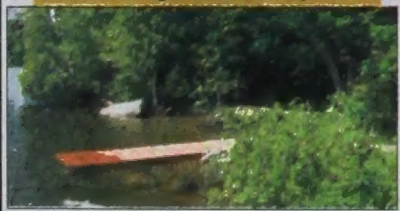
Beech River \$359,000



3 BR Waterfront home, private setting with that "cottage" feel. Sandy shoreline, deep water off dock with excellent access to Beech & Boshkung Lakes.

Anne Moulton 286-2128

Private Eagle Lk Lot \$134,500



More than 3.5 acres, 414 ft of road frontage, over 200 ft of great clean shoreline. Boat on the 2 lake chain. Enjoy Sir Sam's in the winter!

Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

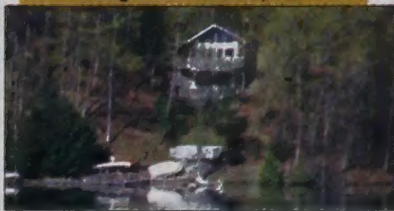
Minden Lake \$364,900



3 BR home/cottage w/ 167' of waterfront on picturesque Minden Lake. Quiet neighbourhood, great swimming, fishing & near White Water Reserve. Simply move in

Paul Szpik - 457-2128

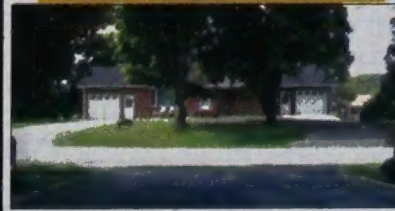
Eagle Lake - \$359,000



Enjoy the sweeping views from this fabulous 3 BR, 2 bath cottage. Open concept, vaulted ceilings, multiple walkouts, minutes to Sir Sams.

Drew Bishop - 457-2128

Minden Bungalow \$249,900



Newly renovated brick bungalow with newer kitchen, ensuite bath and two garages off circular driveway. Immaculately kept!

Janice Brookes 457-2128

* Sales Representative ** Broker *** Broker of Record



Drew Bishop ** 457-2128



Janice Brookes * 457-2128



Dagmar Boettcher * 286-2138



Deborah Deremo** & Andrea Wilson* 457-2128



Mark Dennys * 457-2128



Tom Ecclestone * 286-2138



Lee Gauthier ** 489-9968



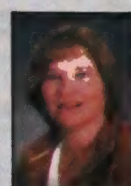
John Hincks ** 286-2138



Andrew Hodgson * 286-2138



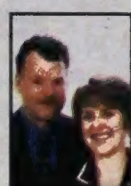
Susanne James * & Andy Mosher ** 457-2128



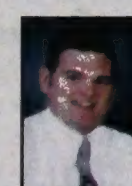
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Erin Nicholls* 457-2128



Derrell Stamp *** & Kim Stamp ** 457-2128



Greg Stamp * 457-2128



Paul Szpik * 457-2128



Wilfred VanLieshout** 457-2128



Tom Wilkinson ** 286-2138



Kristin Withey * 286-2138

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